



**THE BANYAN, KAILUA-KONA**—Water color by Robert Lee Eskridge, which is among the paintings showing at the Honolulu Academy of Arts in one-man exhibits which opened Thursday.

## One-Man Shows At Art Academy

Three one-man exhibitions by well-known local artists opened Monday morning at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. These are Shirley Russell, Juliana Vitousek and Robert Lee Eskridge.

Paintings by Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Vitousek will be reviewed elsewhere by Jean Charlot, internationally known artist on the art department staff of the University of Hawaii. The following review of Mr. Eskridge's work is likewise by Mr. Charlot.

Robert Lee Eskridge exhibits watercolors characterized by the boldness of the wash and the frankness of the chromas. The rainbow hues suggest the unabashed sunlight of the islands in color chords based on contrasting purples and oranges, that stand for dark and light, with an accompaniment of crimson and emerald green. Only a thorough academic knowledge could explain the apparent simplicity of Eskridge's work today.

Beyond the brilliant means, we touch the psychological insight that makes of the appreciation of art a true adventure. However sunny the landscapes, however carefree the tiny personages—fishermen, women in muumuu, tourists—the ultimate content of his art is not all gaiety. There is something thwarted and forbidding in the twisted forms that he clothes with gay colors, that of tree trunks, of rocks and sea, perhaps declaring itself more explicitly in the sketches taken *in situ* of the recent lava flows on Hawaii. Another impressive element is that of primitive magic, such as a group of masked dancers against the background of a sacred grove. It reminds one of how Eskridge has written of these things as well as he has painted them, and of how his knowledge of Hawaii remains tinged with memories of more southern scenes that he witnessed long ago on his cherished Mangareva.

The shows close on Sept. 24.