

Lanterman Watercolors

Subtle and Evanescent

By JEAN CHARLOT

A commercial artist, it should never be forgotten, is an artist. And Ray Lanterman is a well-known commercial artist.

The items he has chosen to show at the Library of Hawaii are different from his everyday chores.

They are watercolors of Tahiti and Hawaii and they are conceived with a free mind, washed with a free hand, and done in his leisure time.

As the promise of gain recedes, the delight of the born artist in art-making

comes to the fore.

Even in these moments of respite from lucre, his commercial training leaves its mark, not distastefully, in the extraordinary ability of the technique.

His watercolor washes are as subtle as music and as evanescent as fog. In "Surfers at Diamond Head," landscape dominates. Man is but a speck. His petty exertions, be they swimming or surfing, are purified by the large sweep of ocean and sky.

Ray's figure compositions are more awkward than his airy landscapes. Too often a

tendency to satirize upsets our relationship to the native models. His technical toughness can hardly be mistaken for primitiveness. Wit can be misplaced, as in the portrait of the unsuspecting sleeping gasoline station attendant.

FIRST CHOICE

My first choice would be "Papenoo, Tahiti." Here, landscape and human are well balanced. The artist spreads his aloha equally over the lone wahine on her bicycle, the shacks and the coconut trees. And, weaving its way artfully between the mere slick and the mock primitive, the technique of this charming piece is of a straightforward simplicity.

Incidentally, thousands of people are familiar with another facet of Lanterman's work. His set of paintings of old Hawaii, commissioned by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, is one of the more rewarding sights at Ala Moana Center.

'connected' by newspaper

(Ray Lanterman. Library of Hawaii. Opens August 19)

Ray Lanterman shows his watercolors of Tahiti and Hawaii at the Library of Hawaii. The show opens August 19.

Ray is a well-known commercial artist, and his set of paintings of old Hawaii commissioned by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association is one of the more rewarding sights at the Ala Moana Shopping Center.

A commercial artist is also an artist. The items Ray chose to show at the Library are different from his everyday chores. They are conceived with a free mind, ~~and~~ washed with a free hand, and in his free time. As the promise of gain recedes, the delight of the born artist in art-making comes to the fore.

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