

# Shirley Russel's Paintings Praised

By JEAN CHARLOT

A one-man show by Shirley Russel is featured, August 6 to September 13, at the Academy of Arts.

The show is vast and well-hung, allowing comparisons between the first sketches in casein and the finished oils. Shirley Russel is one of our best artists, solidly established in the local milieu, and well versed in regard to international trends.

Throughout life, with true humility, she has sought the advice of others, masters as dissimilar as ~~Josef~~ Hoff-

man and Norman Ives. She has a happy knack, though, of never knuckling under, whoever the teacher, and an elasticity that soon reshapes her style along lines of strength that are very much her own.

She does not rejoice in incomprehensibility, or even in obscurity. Like all true artists, she suffers the pains and pangs of art in the making, but has no wish to share that part of her work with the public.

Perhaps more than the praise of the art specialist, Shirley Russel wants the layman to understand her work. Let the few savour in her work the clues to her stylistic struggles, but that is not enough.

One who likes the sea should hang in his home her seascapes simply for their wetness, their saltiness, and the ever renewed turmoil of foam over breakers. She wants doll lovers to appreciate in her still-life with dolls the genuine innocence that, in our mind, pairs dolls and little girls.

The painted parrot balancing on its perch is so alive, as was her wish, that she would not resent the remark, "If it could only talk!" And the flower lover need not realize what problems of balance, and values, and colors, preceded the final version.

Hang

~~The show is well hung, allowing comparisons between the sketches in casein and the~~  
finished oils. My own favorites: "Pali Panorama" where countless details fail to  
intrude on the unified vastness. "Beyond the Blowhole", a most complex seascape  
that may please equally the surfing enthusiast and the most discriminating  
theorician of art. For intensity of light, "From a Tangier Terrace", a loan from  
the Laurence Rockefellers, on <sup>Hawaii</sup> ~~Kauai~~.

It is enough that the result be <sup>delicately touched with that</sup> sweet-smelling,  
as flowers should, with that <sup>savory</sup> ~~essence~~ of the ephemeral  
made timeless

that art here makes timeless 1