

Paintings Depict Last Days of Crucifixion

By PRESTON MCGRAW
United Press International
Dallas - (UPI) - Donald S. Vogel is going to feel a heavy sense of loss when he takes a collection of 54 paintings down from the walls of his gallery, even if he manages to sell the collection for around \$2 million.

The 54 paintings are the late Georges Rouault's "Passion" and depict by contemporary plastic means the last days and crucifixion of Christ.

Vogel is the first gallery owner ever to exhibit them.

He got the paintings last February from Paris and since then has almost lived with them. He framed them in wormy chestnut, studied them individually and hung them.

They went on exhibition in Vogel's Valley House gallery Nov. 15 and Vogel has spent many hours studying them collectively. He said they have almost become an addiction with him.

As a whole, Vogel sees the paintings as a sort of symphonic poem of four movements, the movements connected by some paintings which are used as bridges.

Ambrose Vollard, a French dealer who discovered Rouault, commissioned the "Passion" collection. Rouault executed the paintings between 1930 and 1938 to serve as the source of wood engravings to illustrate Andre Suares poem of the "Passion."

82 Paintings
Altogether, Rouault made 82 paintings from which he made 82 wood engravings. He later destroyed 28 of the paintings, not feeling them to be of the same quality of the remaining 54.

The wood engraving illustrated printing of the poem was limited; Vollard was killed by a taxi when World War II broke out. The 54 paintings went into a vault and few persons knew they existed.

Vogel said he was told about the series in confidence by one of the handful of persons who had seen it. He had known about the series 10 years when he and Mrs. Vogel went to Paris in November, 1961, to get 38 other "virgin" Rouaults.

Mr. and Mrs. Vogel were at dinner with Robert de Bolli, a French collector-dealer, and Mrs. de Bolli when Vogel thought of a way to mention the "Passion" paintings without breaking the confidence of the person who told him about them.

Vogel understood that the De Bolli knew all about the series. He told them he had "dreamed" about it. If there were such a series, he wanted to exhibit it in his gallery. De Bolli was shocked.

Vogel said Mrs. de Bolli screamed: "No, never! They are too young."

After the Vogels returned to Dallas, Mrs. Vogel continued a correspondence with the De Bolli and in every letter Mrs. Vogel said, "Donald dreams of 'Passion'."

Then, abruptly, the De Bolli notified Vogel they were shipping him the series. It arrived early last February and Vogel did nothing afterwards except prepare it for exhibition.

The works are in oil on heavy rag paper. Each the same size, 17 1/4 by 13 inches. There is an inner painting, surrounded by a blue-green mat. The size of the inner paintings varies but Rouault varied each one to form a setting for the painting within and to add cohesiveness to the series.

Halfway through the series, Rouault put the judges of Christ in modern dress in one picture, saying that judges today probably would act as they did in Christ's time.

"For me, the Rouault 'Passion' is comparable to the famous Scrovegni Chapel at Padua where Giotto immortalized himself with his scenes of the life of Christ," De Bolli wrote for the catalogue of the exhibition.

"For proof, I need only the head of Christ, No. 56 in Rouault's numbering (the paintings are numbered irregularly). I have seen large faces of Christ from this artist, painted in full palette, that do not attain the grandeur of this head, sublime in its abnegation, where the crown of thorns is represented by only a few strokes of the aureole scarcely indicated, while the wounds and the blood of Christ are evoked by the abstraction of the red line that follows the matting."

The collection is insured for \$2 million. Vogel was supposed to end the exhibition Dec. 21, but because of interest in it, he extended the exhibition into February.

Robert Lee Parnell, 22, of route 2, box 198A, Central Point, was returned to Yreka, Calif., yesterday to face charges of auto theft, according to state police.

Parnell was arrested in the Four Corners area here Monday night by state police. He is charged with taking a car from Yreka.

He signed a waiver of extradition, police said.

1962 Job Placements Increase 24 Per Cent

Salem - (UPI) - Job placements for 1962 increased 24 per cent while claims for unemployment insurance dropped 12 per cent, Eldon Cone, director of the Oregon State Employment Service, said Tuesday.

Job placements for the calendar year totaled 507,419, Cone said.

Claims for unemployment insurance for the year totaled 195,306.

Man Bound Over To Grand Jury by Court

Gary Gene Asher, Central Point, was bound over to the grand jury after appearing in Jackson County district court Monday on charges of burglary not in a dwelling.

Asher had waived a preliminary hearing.

He was one of two men charged with entering a service station on Table Rock rd. Jan. 4.

Central Point Man Is Returned To Yreka

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Professor Has His Shangri-La On River Seine

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press International

Paris - (UPI) - A retired American professor thinks he has found his Shangri-La.

Ney MacMinn, until 1960 professor of 19th century English and American literature at Northwestern university, lives on a boat on the River Seine in the heart of Paris, right under the shadow of the Eiffel tower.

The slender, amiable professor believes he has truly gotten away from it all. No doorbells, no telephones, no postman, no car, no radio or television or even family. In his household are only the things he wanted: Pipe, big cup of coffee on the table, phonograph, cello, his dog named Buster, and his beloved collection of 5,000 books lining every wall, including the bathroom.

The only sounds are the clunk of waves against his boat or the foot of a passing cargo ship.

His free view is like the set of a Gene Kelly musical—the tree-lined banks of the river, the sculptured bridges, the graceful Eiffel tower in his "backyard."

"I've become very fond of that tower," he mused as he sat before a little coal stove in his living room. "I've seen it in rain, in fog, in moonlight—it is constantly changing."

The professor, twice-divorced and childless, confessed he'd been "thinking of retiring for 30 years." He checked over many spots, but wanted to live in a big city "where I could keep my books and yet be able to move south when it got cold."

Boat Is Answer

"The logical answer was a boat," he said.

MacMinn purchased his 59-ton, 73-foot boat in Holland. Paris police gave him a permit to park on the Seine next to French, Dutch and Italian houseboats a few blocks from the plush George V hotel. Soon he will head south for the winter and, if he feels like it, travel the network of placid canals and rivers in Europe to visit Belgium, Holland, Germany and Austria.

The professor has neatly beat Paris' high rents. With a small investment, he converted the \$1,500 barge into a snug home with living-dining room, kitchen, study, two bedrooms and bathroom. The kitchen stove and refrigerator and lamps run on gas but he plans to buy an electric generator.

An American ex-student, Kim Bartlett of Washington, Conn., helped remodel the boat and will run the motor on their planned voyage.

Rope Cut

Of course, life has not been 100 per cent ship-shape. Some rowdies cut the boat's dock rope and MacMinn floated helplessly on the river until rescued by a policeboat. Now he uses a steel cable.

"I never thought the rock of the boat would bother me but when I go ashore I pitch like a drunken sailor," he said. "I think everything still is moving."

"It's also amazing how dirty this cabin can get, without a woman's touch."

So is he never lonely?

"I've never been lonely," he insisted. "I've always been happy because I'm self-sufficient. I read, I think, I listen to music or play with the dog. I'm gregarious and I've made many French and American friends here. I'm organizing a chamber music group so I can play my cello. If I'm alone, then I write in my diary or I write long letters to everyone I know."

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