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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Powerful, sensitive and even valid

GALLERY

RACHEL ROVAY
Profile,
257 Coventry Street,
South Melbourne.
March 31 - April 14.

By SHARON GOOD

It was with trepidation I undertook the assignment of another gallery review.

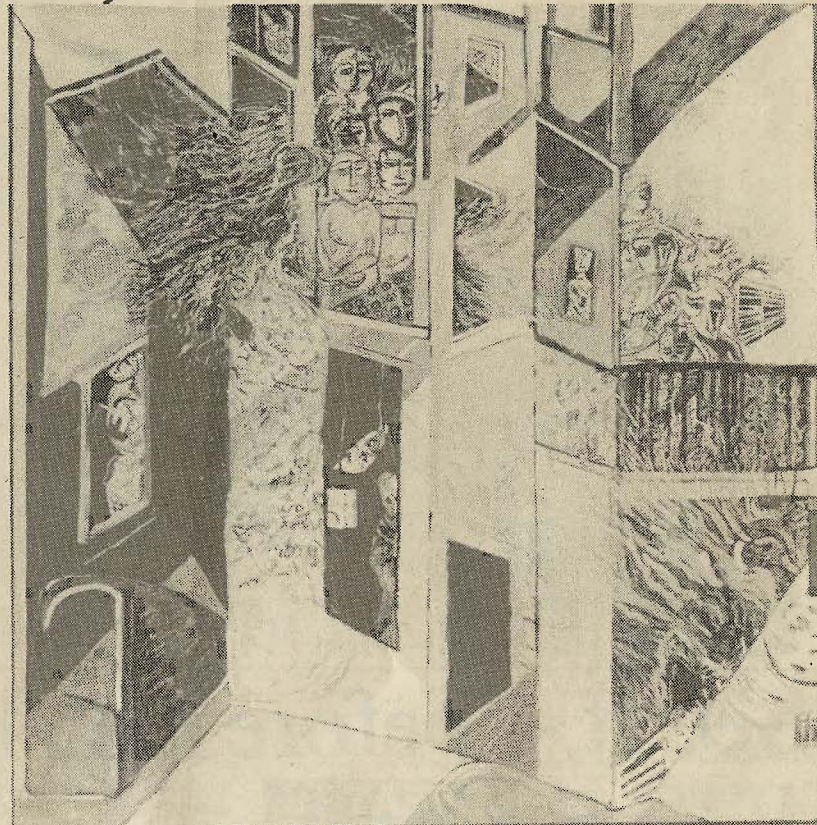
Disillusioned with the often stagnant and impotent works of recent exhibitions, I was growing increasingly sceptical as to the direction and validity of much contemporary art.

For this reason I was appreciative of the fortuitous timing of Rachel Rovay's exhibition which commenced this week at Profile Gallery.

Ms Rovay, an Israeli-born Melbourne artist, in this exhibition addresses the conflict wrought in her homeland.

The 10 oil-on-canvas paintings and seven chalk-pastel drawings are evocative in content and masterful in depiction.

Although largely expressionist in technique, it is apparent the artist has employed facets from varying artistic styles.



One of the stirring works of Rachel Rovay.

The use of bold complementary 'fauve' colour is evident in a number of works.

The more stylised motifs

in exhibit eight, untitled, is reminiscent of Klimt, while the format in a number of paintings appears as a direct parallel to Picassos Fuernica.

Rovay's portrayal directs the viewer to the horror and pathos inflicted upon the lives of ordinary citizens.

Figures linger in dark

doorways, others are observed as if caged indoors, clutching in an embrace or standing alone, eyes frightened and bewildered, staring from windows.

Glimpses of domestic order do exist (a vase of flowers) but appear vulnerable and transitory, as insidious fingers of flame threaten to devour.

Exhibit number five, untitled, indicates a significant shift in depicting suffering humanity.

Here human carnage is objectified, kitchen utensils having replaced stylised figures.

This motif is more fully explored in the drawings which have a more surreal quality than do the paintings.

These works evoke a different mood and feel also; a more ordered and subdued depiction devoid of the elements of destruction and chaos.

The drawings in particular are bold, dynamic and strangely broody, and should not be seen as a mere adjunct to the painting.

The exhibition is a powerful and sensitive portrayal of life in contemporary Israel, and should not be missed.

WHO?WHAT?WHEN?WHERE?

THEATRE

Easter Sunday - Poets Parade & Poets Lane FFIP 12.30 at

Sons of Cain, written and directed by David Williamson. Nightly 8.15, Sat 5 & 8.30, matinee 2 pm Apr 3. Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre. Bookings Russell St Theatre

MGM Gallery - exhibition of flamboyant knits and prints by Tess and Helena, textile artists also Tasmanian Huon Pine by Andersen Design & Merv Gray opens 4-8 pm 359

OR WHAT

State Film Centre of Victoria - "Masculine Mystique" opens

Wednesday night at the CPA International perspectives. Wed Apr 10, 8 pm. Speakers: Stuart McIntyre, Janna Thompson. Old hat? Trendy Or ...? The Relevance of Marxism. Today 12 Explor-