

Nov. 12, 1978

ART

Photographs by Jose Fellelano

State of the art, past and fu

Works by Luis Paret y Alcazar

By FELIX BONILLA NORAT

Special to the STAR

A discreet exhibit of some 35 drawings by Luis Paret y Alcazar is now at the UPR museum where it will remain throughout November. The drawings were lent by the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid and the First Federal Savings Bank here helped with expenses.

Paret was an 18th Century painter from the Spanish royal court who was exiled to Puerto Rico from 1776 to 1778 because he was a bad influence on the young Spanish prince. To be a "bad" influence on such an effete's courts' youth, might have been a good thing although judging from Paret's academic drawings, he was no revolutionary. He dutifully followed the court's taste in art from the spacial Baroque and curlicued Rococo to the Neoclassical.

Paret didn't play much in Puerto Rico as far as the records show; he must have been too busy campaigning to get back into court favor and to Madrid where he was born — and died in 1799. He did adopt our "hay bendito" tactics in his campaign, painting himself barefoot in jibaro clothing with a machete and carrying bananas on his shoulders, he a courtier. Imagine the effect of the picture — now the property of a Puerto Rican collector Acisclo Marxuach — when he sent it to friends in Madrid. With its crisp painterly white dress, shaded lynx eyes and shapely bare feet, it is worth the trip to the museum.

Paret was allowed to return to Spain, although initially he was limited to the north coast away from the court. Eventually he did go to Madrid and luckily for him the king died about then so he was permitted to stay and became a member of the Royal San Fernando Academy of Art the same day that Goya himself became a member.

While in Puerto Rico Paret is supposed to have known Jose Campeche who was about five years younger. We can only surmise Paret's influence on Campeche but they probably did not have a teacher-pupil but a peer relationship, respectful and attentive to each other's work but wary for social reasons. We can only point to a certain looseness and freedom which



"Raquel" by Luis Paret y Alcazar



"Autoretrato" by Luis Paret y Alcazar

began to appear in Campeche's work after 1777 as a sign of Campeche's respect for Paret's work especially the four pennants Paret did for the San Juan cathedral. The pennants have disappeared but they were impressive, the elders say.

The Paret drawings in the exhibit are small studio works in ink with some ink washes. His technique is finished and expert. Most seem to be

preparatory works for engravings and some look like finished engravings suggesting that Paret didn't expect to do the engraving himself since artists are not so finicky with their drawings when they aim to finish the details on the plates themselves. The works are not playful enough in execution except here and there in small touches. Which merit your examination.

Paret's subjects include designs for

visiting cards, empty decorative oval medallions, ovals with head and shoulder portraits, designs for church silver, classical and typical decorative figures, courtly portraits such as the satisfactory "Raquel" and silly court scenes. Of the classical compositions, the painterly and dramatically lighted "Sacrificio a los manes" is my favorite, perhaps because "manes" were simpler, less courtly spirits.

GALLERIES

ARCHIVO GENERAL

500 Ponce de Leon Ave. (Old Bacardi Bldg.)
Exhibit of "Six Spanish Painters of Today."

ART STUDENTS LEAGUE

Rodriguez Army Hospital Building, Old San Juan. Current exhibition: Paintings by Shine, Lopez, Ortiz and Suarez.

BELL BOOK-CANDLE GALLERY

102 De Diego Ave, Condado. 725-1135. Posters By Miro, Tapie's, Chilla, Alechinsky, Cuevas, Suara, etc.

CARNEGIE EXHIBITION HALL

Carnegie Library Ponce de Leon Ave. Stop 1. Puerta de Tierra. 724-1046. Open Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CASA DEL LIBRO

255 Calle del Cristo 724-0354. Open Mon. to Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. "The Art of the Calendar."

EL TRAPICHE GALLERY

200 Cristo St. San Juan, Open Mon. to Sat. 10 to 12 and 1 to 4 Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Current Exhibit "Ocho Salmos" by Ramon Frontera

GALERIA BOTELLO

208 Cristo St., Old San Juan. Tel. 723-2879. Paintings and prints by local and international artists.

GALERIA COABEY

101 San Sebastian St., Old San Juan 723-1018. Current show: Silkscreen prints and posters by Jose Alicea.

GALERIA ELUSTONDO

Cristo 200. Old San Juan, Mon. to Sat., 10-6. Paintings, drawings and woodcuts by Suenos, De la Maza, Merkel, Lucas and Elustondo.

GALERIA FOTOGRAFIA PL 900

Ponce de Leon 900, Santurce 725-2617 open 9-5 daily except Tuesday and Wednesday.

GALERIA GUATIBIRI

1003 Gonzalez Ave., Rio Piedras.

GALERIA LA CALETA

70 Caleta de San Juan. Old San Juan. 723-8627. M-Thurs. 10-6; Fri 10-3, sat closed Sun. 1-6. Paintings and prints by proprietor Luis Cajigas, ceramics, graphics and sculpture.

GALERIA MUNICIPIO

City Hall, Old San Juan. Current show: Prints and posters by Luis G. Cajigas.

GALERIA OLLER

Calle Escorial 366 Caparra His. 782-3171. Open Tues to Thurs. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri. 2-9 Sat. 9-2. Paintings and Graphics by Puerto Rican artists.

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Works by James Shine and his students

By MYRNA RODRIGUEZ
Special To The STAR

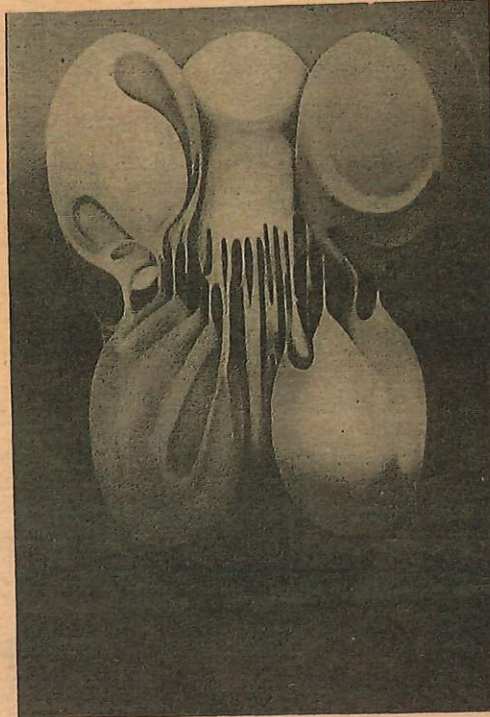
When an artist exhibits his work with his students he runs the risk of underplaying his role as a professional artist to enhance his vocation as a teacher. In turn, the artist-students may be tempted to become mirror images of the teacher or they could be overwhelmed by the technical and creative superiority of the master. To achieve a proper balance is no easy task.

James G. Shine and three of his students from the Art Students League have undertaken the difficulties of producing a quality show and, after 10 months of planning and working together, have accomplished their objective. The result is to be praised. It is a good start for three promising young artists and has brought a new turn to Shine's works. The teacher has run the risk successfully and his students' works hang independently of his.

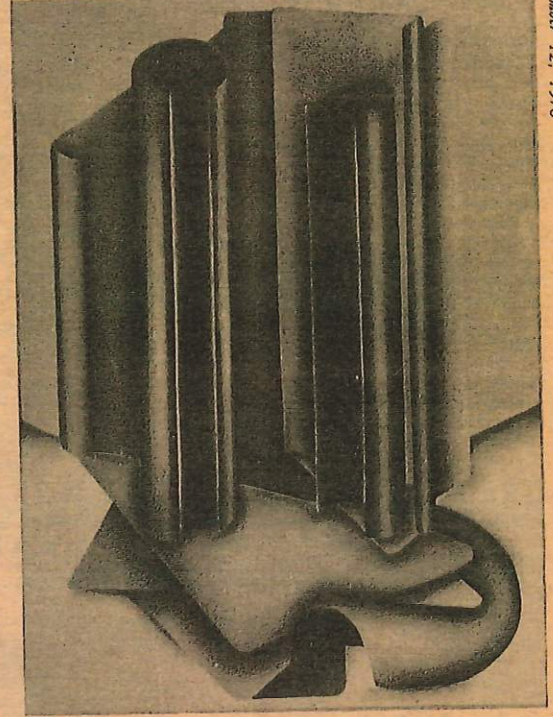
There is a significant change of style in Shine's paintings, a clear departure from the stylistic influence of Rodon. But stylistic changes are not an isolated occurrence, since they reflect a change in thematic content and a new awareness. Shine seems to be concerned with creation in its biological sense. As can be seen in his oval shapes floating in dense space. Rounded forms have always been associated with sex and fertility and therefore with creation and the rounded form is the prime symbol in the six paintings shine is exhibiting.

The artist's present style shows more concern with mass and volume than the overall pattern of irregular planes that he used to develop. In "CMSM" the ovals interfuse with the space around them in such a way that you can feel the plasticity of the environment. His color is subtler now without any sacrifice of quality. "Germinacion espacial" is a symphony of neutralized colors and variety of tones. Another larger sized painting, "Coneccion vital," is also carefully worked in reference to color schemes. In this work the oval forms become more complex: two pair of eggs with inner cavities, stretched, giving the feeling of elasticity.

Pablo Lopez is the youngest of the artist exhibitors. He is 17. His work fits in comfortably with that of his fellow student artists. However, he



"Coneccion vital" by James Shine



"Estructuracion ferrea" by Pablo Lopez

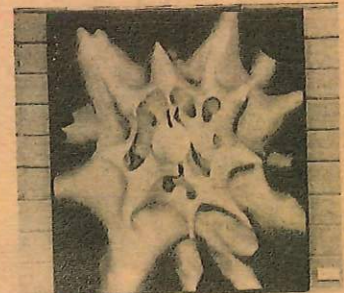
should work on his hard-edge technique and learn more about color subtleties. Nevertheless, he is capable of achieving interesting compositions such as "Estructuracion ferrea" and as he develops, he should be able to adventure into more complex compositions. It would be interesting to see his ideas in steel sculpture.

Angel Suarez's bishop theme seems to be a pretext for letting out his expressionistic style. His use of diluted paint dripping up and down the canvas surface subordinates content to technique. The negative space with the bishops' heads surrounded by splashes of violet in "Mitra Responsorial" is most interesting. In his tryptic, "N.M. Pazziz" the composition is adequate but the tonal and color scheme is lagging. Suarez, 21, needs more thematic variation, but on the whole he stands on his own.

Ivan Ortiz is the most mature of the three student artists, not only chronologically—he is 26—but in his work. There is hard work in his treatment of his surfaces, creating an overall texture that contributes to the qualities of the color renderings. The artist apparently derived sensuous pleasure in such intent work on the represented forms.

The color blendings in Ortiz' works, suggest human flesh in strange forms. "Superficie Voluptuosa" reflects the analogy between the shell and the human female body with its mysterious implication of two shadows over a curved surface. This painting shows the best artistic qualities of the painter.

In general the balance of the show is positive. The younger artists have the opportunity to show their work and it should motivate them to con-



tinue. The teacher accomplished his role.

This exhibition, which started in the Art Student League, moved to the General Studies Library of the University of Puerto Rico and is now in the gallery at La Fortaleza where it will remain until Dec. 6.

GALERIA RAQUEL
San Jose 257, Old San Juan. Mon. to Sat. 10-6.
European oil paintings.

GALERIA SAN SEBASTIAN
104 San Sebastian St. Puerto Rican paintings and Sculpture. Current show: "Los Balancelistas" by Ramiro Pazmino.

INSTITUTE OF CULTURE
Convento de Santo Domingo, Old San Juan.
Current show "Muestra Nacional de Pintura"

MANOS
Convention Center, Condado. Contemporary ceramics by the Caparra Studio. T-F 12-3; S&S 12-4. Current show: Clay Sculptures by Sylvia Blanco.

GALERIA W. LABIOSA
4.5 Sol St Old San Juan. 724-6293. Mon.-Fri. 1:30-5:30, Sat. 9-5:30. Puerto Rican art.

INTERAMERICAN UNIVERSITY
San German. Beverly Student Center.
Current show: starting Tuesday, photographs by Carmen Vazquez Guy

MUSEO DE LA FUNDACION
Behind Tapia Theater, Plaza Colon 725-5962.
Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mon Indian Artifacts and sculpture.

MUSEO DE LA FORTALEZA
Governor's Mansion, Old San Juan. Open only during business hours.
Current show: Paintings and drawings by Janet D. Esopo

(until Monday) Opening Tuesday: Paintings by James Shine and his students, P. Lopez I Ortiz and A. Suarez.

MUSEO DEL GRABADO LATINOAMERICANO
Casa de los Contrafuertes, 101 San Sebastian St., Plaza San Jose second floor. Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Current show: posters and drawings by Jose Melendez Contreras.

PONCE MUSEUM OF ART
Ponce Current show: "Recuerdos de un Puerto Rico olvidado," photos by Hector M. Mendez Caratini

UPR MUSEUM
Rio Piedras Campus. Open daily 9-9, Sat., Sun. 9-3.
Current exhibit: Drawings by Luis Paret y Alcazar