



At home in Corbally, Limerick, this week . . . Mr. Kelleher, who has exhibited at the Royal Academy in London.

Photograph: A. F. FOLEY.

Approved artist's work is rejected

CONTROVERSY FLARES OVER LIMERICK EXHIBITION

BY PADDY MORONEY

AS THE '77 Exhibition of Visual Art, due to open this Friday evening in Limerick, draws near, it is learned that Corbally painter, Mr. Danny Kelleher, has had his entries rejected by the organising committee. Yet his works have already been approved by the Revenue Commissioners as tax-free "genuine works of art" on the advice of the Arts Council—which is sponsoring the exhibition.

This week he told of how he submitted three works for the local exhibition, only to be told of their rejection and how his wife, Joan, who made enquiries, had been told that they were below standard. Mr. Kelleher, who lives at 34 Rosendale Gardens, told me the paintings were in the traditional or academic style: "My type of art is visual." They included two landscapes.

Abstract

He said of this Friday's Exhibition of Visual Art in the Municipal Art Gallery, 14 Pery Square, from which his paintings were rejected: "What I saw were all modern and abstract. If that is what they have, then it is very confined. "My type of art is visual, but if you saw a thing with . . ." (and here he described an abstract pattern) ". . . then it is not art to me."

But he hastened to add: "I am not condemning it. Some of them (the artists) come up with very original works."

The co-ordinator of the committee behind the exhibition, Mr. Charles Harper, commenting, said that his statement that the works by Mr. Kelleher was "below standard" had been grossly misquoted and put out of context.

When he said "below standard" it was in the heat of an argument with one of Mr. Kelleher's family who had got in touch with him.

Present day

The phrase was not used in regard to the artist himself in his own field, the traditional or academic field, but in the sense that the committee was looking for present-day type art.

Mr. Harper said that he told Mr. Kelleher's wife who had contacted him that the pictures went through "the usual selection process." "We had 400 entries," he went on, "and we tried to get in as many people as possible, so somebody is going to go under."

"The criteria are based mainly on the tastes and ideas of the selection committee, a group of young people who have their own ideas, going more towards contemporary art."

"This particular person's work came far outside the category."

Asked who the committee were age-wise, Mr. Harper said they ranged in age from 25 to 35 years of age.

Mr. Kelleher is in his early forties.

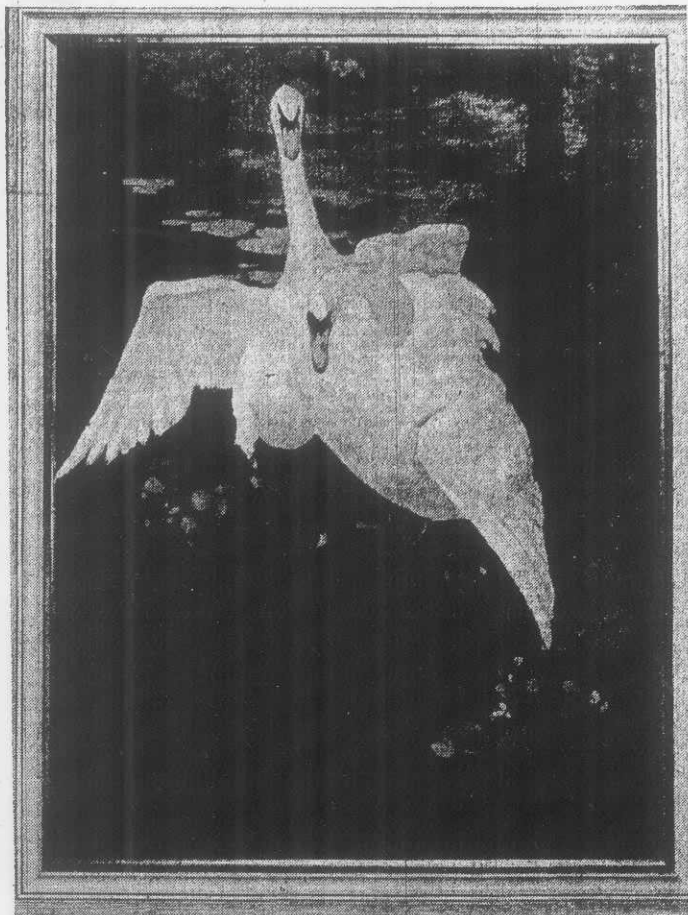
Mr. Harper went on: "The committee's interest is more in regard to art of to-day, contemporary art that is done to-day—art which is not academic."

Committee

Asked if that meant that there would not be academic-type art in the exhibition, he replied that the taste of the actual committee would be the actual deciding factor. "Each individual has one voice and one vote, and the majority vote brings the work into the exhibition," he explained.

A private viewing of the exhibition will be held this Friday, with a formal opening by Dr. Maire de Paor.

Mr. Kelleher, interviewed at



One of the three paintings by Mr. Kelleher which won't be seen at the '77 Exhibition of Visual Art, which opens this Friday night in Limerick.

his home this week, said he was not angry that his paintings were rejected, but that they were slated to be "below standard."

As a creative artist, his artistic work has been accepted by the Revenue Commissioners as being work free from tax.

He has exhibited in such places as the Royal Academy in London—"it is the place for art in the world," in his own words, "and it speaks for itself if your works are exhibited there"—as well as the Royal Water Colour Society's gallery off Bond Street, London, at a time when it was under the presidency of Sir William Russell Flint—"one of the world's greatest in his field."

First time

Mr. Kelleher has also exhibited at the Royal Society of British Artists in London—he was resident in Britain at

the time.

"But this is the first time that my pictures have been rejected," he declined.

He studied at the Hammer-smith College for Arts and Crafts, across the road from the B.E.C. Studios, and he won first prize in an art exhibition in Bethlehem, New York, which was visited by 15,000 people a day.

Mr. Kelleher, besides being an artist, is a decorator and executes sign writing and "all types of pictorial work."

Playgrounds

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ground that will not be vandalised, unless you put in a lot of thought and money into them."

On the question of appointing supervisors, he said that some residents' associations on the Continent appointed their own part-time overseers, working in relays, with the places fenced in.

The quotations now being sought will be processed and, as Mr. Murphy put it, "the Corporation hope to have them (the playgrounds) done before the winter."

He added: "Work will start shortly."

Boherbuoy

(From page 1)

and was demolished some months ago to make way for the new building, which was completed in June last at a cost of over £2,000.

The new hand room is more spacious than the former one with storage space for equipment, special committee meeting rooms and a yard. Cllr. Kemmy described the project, which received much assistance from ANCO, as "a good example of urban rene-

Ferenka

(From page 1)

cess the dispute with reporters.

A spokesman for Ferenka stated this Friday that every effort was being made to have the dispute settled but they had had no response from the men, whom they understood were contacted by their union.

He said that the entire shift work force of about 900 men were now out of work and production was at a standstill.

In an earlier statement issued on behalf of Ferenka on Thursday the background to the dispute was set out. "On Monday, September 12, at 4 p.m. approximately, an operator was asked to go to the general services department to carry out certain duties.

These were: (1) cleaning of toilets, (2) mopping of floor in main canteen, and (3) giving out of tea at main tea-break. "This type of service work has frequently been carried out by operators in emergency situations previously by agreement with I.T.G.W.U."

Refused

"The man in question refused to carry out the toilet cleaning, saying that it was

Exhibition

From Page 1

by Irish housewives in a competition sponsored by Coal Distributors Ltd. for members of the Federation of Womens' Clubs in Ireland.

The Minister was welcomed by Mr. Liam Keller, president of the Irish Hardware Association, who are sponsors of the exhibition.

Mr. Barrett said, "The wide range of accessories and equipment on view is a credit to the firms participating. The number and variety is most impressive and to all those conscious of the need for home maintenance and improvement, the exhibition should provide a host of items of interest and stimulate new ideas to improve their homes. "A very important aspect of Brighter Homes Exhibition is that, in addition to boosting sales in the commercial sector, they promote an active interest in the conservation and improvement of the country's housing stock."

Housing

"As the Minister responsible for housing, the maintenance and improvement of existing houses is a matter of particular concern to me. There has been a growing concern to meet a growing



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