

New shows in Jerusalem

STEFFA REIS, a pillar of the Safad Artists Colony, shows pastels, water-colours and screen prints. The pastels are sometimes applied over washes and are nearly all abstracted landscapes (hints of animals and figures also appear), some of them in the manner of the 1950 School of Paris, though this artist was London-trained in the Fifties before coming here. But most of the works, though highly skilled are sweet and blitty, being made up of a myriad little elements; one feels like scissoring out the occasional broad passage. The screenprints are also varied in quality; the only good one is the very good 22, where a semblance of landscape has been reduced to a Barnett Newman minimalist configuration: the "right" proportions of the broad bands of colour result in a satisfying effect of high drama. (Nora Gallery, 9 Be'er Maimon, J'lem). Till Jan. 29.

VARDA GETZOW is a young graduate of the Tel Aviv High School of Art and makes her debut with mixed-media works on paper, all of them too firmly entrenched in the gestures of typical Israeli abstract expressionism of the Sixties to give us much idea of whether she will develop her own artistic personality, though she clearly has a feeling for lively composition and texture. The larger oil- and- graphite works are on smooth cardboard and make oc-

casional good use of near-wash techniques, dashed over and around bits of collaged newsprint; while the smaller and more dramatic works are on thin paper or glossy magazine illustrations worked over with oil pastel and oil wash. The latter are almost monochrome, and throughout the show it is tone, rather than colour, which dominates the compositional logic. (Debel Gallery, Eln Karem). Till Jan. 27.

ARGOV surprises with a radical departure from his familiar hard-edge, brightly coloured designs in fibreglass. This time a few large, almost colourless, unstretched minimalist canvases made up of simple geometrical divisions and vertical-horizontal fold-marks are spaced awkwardly and unhappily along the half-empty walls. Equally unhappily, no charge emanates from the canvases themselves, despite their carefully considered divisions and surfaces. I suspect they'd function better if they were taut on a stretcher. (Jerusalem Artists House), Till Jan. 31.

ANNA KLEJA shows pen-and-wash drawings and a few paintings of tortured souls that occasionally evoke memories of Blake, but none of them are sufficiently well composed, either in form or colour, to warrant exhibition at this venue. (Jerusalem Artists House). Till Jan. 24. □

MEIR RONNEN



*Varda Getzow: mixed media
(Debel Gallery, Eln Karem).*



*Steffa Reis: detail of composition
(Nora Gallery, Jerusalem).*