

Art Galleries

Art Galleries Prepare For Season

By Gerald R. Kelly

The bad news in the Vineyard art world is that the Red Barn Emporium is up for sale for a cool million and a half. The good news is that the owners, Brandon Wight and Bruce Blackwell, are in no hurry to sell and that any sale will contain a clause stating they have the right to operate the gallery and live in the apartment there for another five years. The art scene will continue to be enhanced by the Emporium presence with the extraordinary Sunday afternoon openings we have become accustomed to.

This year, Ellen G. Conover McCluskey has been named as gallery coordinator. Said the owners of the gallery, "With the growth of our gallery business it

seems appropriate to add another person to the planning and decision-making process. Ellen is uniquely qualified. She has been associated with us at the Granary Gallery for the past several summers and prior to that, she and her former husband created the Charlotte Inn and Edgartown Art Gallery.

One of the major events of past summers has been the opening of the Steve Mills exhibit of exquisitely realistic oil paintings of Island scenes. This will not take place this year, though there will be individual paintings by the highly popular young artist.

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A new addition to the Red Barn will be a separate photographic gallery which will have showings this summer of the works of Alfred Eisenstadt, Peter Simon and Alison Shaw, among others. The inaugural show starts on July 10, with the works of Peter Simon, who also shows photographs in the pages of The Times.

The first Granary show of the year is to be held on June 26, a retrospective show of paintings, serigraphs and woodcuts of the late William Abbe.

On July 3, there will be an exhibit of paintings by Marina Day and James A. Mitchell III.

This year will be a Stanley Murphy year for art lovers. This remarkable artist has a small gallery in a pasture in Chilmark and he shows every other year only. This year, the gallery opens July 4 and will remain open until Labor Day. A fair representation of Mr. Murphy's fine paintings can be seen in the West Tisbury Town Hall and the Katharine Cornell Theatre. Best of all Murphy paintings, though, are the ones yet to come.

On The Vineyard is a small gallery on the side of State Road just outside Vineyard Haven on the road up-Island. It is outside the business district and therefore operated, not as a business but as a pleasure, by Douglas Parker, who takes no percentage of the artists' prices.

The pleasure, however, has become too much like hard work and Mr. Parker plans to diminish the scope of the operation. He explained, "The galley has become successful in terms of community acceptance but it's become too much work for me. It's a real second job and not what I wanted of the Vineyard."

He plans to have more fun with the gallery by having it open to the general public only on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and by appointment only for the rest of the week.

He will, however, have the same fine artists showing, such as Albert Alcalá, Selina Trief, Douglas Kent and Bess Parker.