

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MUSEUM EXHIBITS
3 TROVA SCULPTURES

It is unique in the annals of art when all the available crafts of a large department store are turned over to a well-known artist so that he can channel these resources into the creation of works of art. Yet, this is what happened during the Spring and Summer of 1964 as part of St. Louis' Bicentennial celebration, when Ernest Trova, 37 year old St. Louis artist, worked with glaziers, carpenters, plumbers, painters, electricians and the display department of Famous-Barr Company. Trova found it a completely fascinating experience to compose art objects in the atmosphere of a large department store, which he considers to be a civilization in itself. I personally feel, and Trova agrees, that the works created in this atmosphere, which are being exhibited for the first time in the current exhibition at Famous-Barr Company on October 18, are an advancement over anything he has done to date. It is extremely difficult to categorize the work into media, such as painting, sculpture, collage, assemblage or construction. While there are some works in each of these media, most are a combination of some or all of them and synthesize all of the modern trends including pop and optical art. One thing they have in common is that they are a further development of Trova's "Falling Man" series which won for him international fame as a painter in the past two years. His works can be found now in the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Tate Gallery in London, as well as a number of other museums and private collections, both in this country and abroad.

Three sculptures by Ernest Trova are among 80 recently acquired works that the Museum of Modern Art, New York, has put on exhibition through April 11. The show is a selection from objects, dating from 1909 to 1964, acquired by gift or purchase in the last two years.

The Trova pieces are "Walking Man," a lifesize chrome-plated bronze figure, a composition of 18 figures in a vitrine and a small prone figure on toy automobile wheels. The museum acquired an oil study from Trova's "Falling Man" series in 1962. The three sculptures were in the Famous-Barr Bicentennial exhibition of work by Trova, a St. Louis self-trained artist, last fall. A one-man show of his recent works is now at the Pace gallery, New York.

Three oil and wax paintings by Siegfried Reinhardt will be in the show, Contemporaries No. One, at the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art, New York, from Feb. 23 through March 21. The exhibition is of recent paintings by 25 living American artists.

The Reinhardt works are "The Magic Game," "The Great Crown" and "Golgotha." The latter two were in a show sponsored last fall by Stix, Baer and Fuller.

Prints by three Washington University School of Fine Arts faculty members and two of their former students make up a show at the Esther Stuttman gallery, Washington. Frank Getlein, critic of the Washington Star, said that the show revealed St. Louis "as a very important origin of contemporary printmaking, largely due to the influence of Washington University." He praised the graphics of the teachers, Fred Becker, Charles Quest and Werner Drewes, then added that "the more exciting work" is by their former students, John Wehmer and Tom Cranmer. Cranmer now lives in the capital. Both show works of exceptional size—Wehmer abstractions of cityscapes; Cranmer a suite of nudes up to 7½ feet high.