

ART NEWS

GOTTLIEB EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT LACMA

By JOSINE IANCO-STARRELS

The largest and most comprehensive retrospective exhibition of the work of abstract expressionist painter Adolph Gottlieb opens July 15 at the County Museum of Art and remains on view through Aug. 22.

Gottlieb, considered one of the seminal figures in the first generation of American abstract expressionist artists, began his career in the '20s with realist and surrealist paintings that contain some of the pictorial elements he explored in later works.

The exhibition contains more than 100 paintings, sculptures and works on paper and spans his career from the '20s to his death in 1974.

Works on view were assembled from public and private collections in the United States and Canada by Sanford Hirsch, curator of the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, and guest curator Mary Davis Mac Naughton. The exhibition is being circulated by the Gottlieb Foundation.

A fully illustrated catalogue with 60 color reproductions and essays by Mac Naughton and art historian/ critic Lawrence Alloway accompanies the exhibition.

A national exhibition titled "Afro-American Abstraction" opens Tuesday with a public reception, 6-9 p.m., at the Municipal Art Gallery in Barnsdall Park. The show continues through Aug. 29.

Organized by art critic April Kingsley, it consists of 31 contemporary paintings, sculptures and drawings by 18 American artists and was first presented at P.S. 1 in New York in 1980.

Works in the show convey a common spirit reflecting contemporary mainstream styles as well as the artists' involvement to varying degrees with their African heritage.

"Seems to me that despite the enormous diversity of their abstract: style," writes Kingsley, "these artists convey a common spirit.... A majority, in fact, have visited Africa, and certain characteristics of the African artistic tradition are visible whether intended or not." The exhibition updates the work of several established artists and introduces other talented ones who have emerged in recent years. Included are the works of Sam Gilliam, Richard Hunt, Alvin Loving, Jack Whitten, Charles Searles, William T. Williams, Melvin Edwards, Ellsworth Ausby, Edward Clark,

Houston Conwill, Maren Hassinger, Jamillah Jennings, James Little, Tyrone Mitchell, Senga Nengudi,

Howardina Pindell and Martin Puryear.

A selection of works by Californians working in abstract styles has been added to the traveling show. These are by Russel T. Gordon, Marvin Harden, Mary O'Neal, Raymond Saunders and Matthew Thomas.

In the Muni's North Gallery, Tuesday through July 28, is "Water Images," with drawings by Jeanine Breaker, watercolors by Sue Dirksen and color photographs by Jennifer Griffiths and Anita Getzler.

The Graphic Arts Council of the County Museum of Art has awarded the 1982 Kay Nielson Memorial Scholarship to artist Linda PicosClark. The \$1,000 award was established in 1978 to encourage Los Angeles graphic artists. Picos Clark, 24, studied drawing for the last five years at the International School of Fine Arts in Mexico City. She now studies at California State University, Long Beach. She has also worked with artists Lynn Foulkes and Salvator Pecoraro.

Members of this year's selection committee for the 1982 award were: Bruce Davis, assistant curator of prints and drawings at the Museum; Kathy Gauss, from the same department; Michael Bilson, chair, the Graphic Arts Council, and committee members Tobey Moss and Amy Goldman. The committee reviewed works by more than 55 students from 13 schools in Southern California. The Graphic Arts Council is one of 10 volunteer councils affiliated with the museum.

"Splendors of the Sohites," a traveling exhibition housed in the Metropolitan Container of Art and last seen at UC Irvine, is at the University Art Museum, UC Santa Barbara, to run in tandem with an exhibition of sculpture by Kazuo Kadonaga, through Aug. 1. "Splendors of the Sohites," a spoof on "blockbuster" exhibitions, presents an assemblage of "artworks and artifacts" found in Soho, where in the latter half of the 20th Century, an amazing civilization was born... flourished and quickly died. The Metropolitan Container of Art, which holds the collection, is a rubbish container. In the museum's South Gallery is an ongoing series of works titled "Wood" by Japanese sculptor Kadonaga. He combines a traditional idea of releasing forms with a Japanese sense of revealing natural process.

The artist's intention is to discover the natural beauty of his materials rather than use them to conform to a concept. Kadonaga challenges the viewer to re-examine the continuous and familiar process of nature.