

The News

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Life Styles

The News

OMR Show Reflects Energetic 90's Madrid

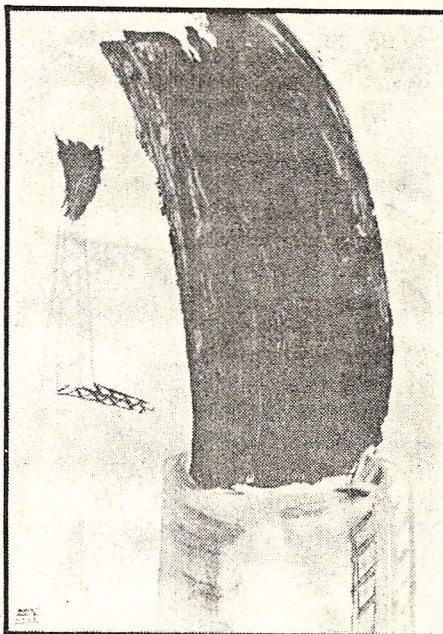
By JOHN SHOWN
Special To The News

When Federico Fellini made his films "8 1/2" and "La Dolce Vita," he showed us how 1960s Rome was the center of the universe with its exciting night life. Now Spanish film director Pedro Almodovar is demonstrating through his films how Madrid has become the most energetic European capital in the 1980s and early '90s.

Galeria OMR has picked up on this energy which has spilled over from the streets and night life of Madrid into the artistic pulse of the city, and is currently presenting five Hispanic painters living in Madrid. The exhibit came about through Carlos Vidal, one of the five, who, though a Mexican born in Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, has lived in Madrid for the past five years.

"It is very easy to know other artists in Madrid, especially in the all-night bars," says Vidal who has met most of the other Spanish participants in the OMR exhibit. Vidal first made contact with the Spaniards here in Mexico where Nono Bandera was working. Bandera, who hails from Malaga, Spain, lived in Zacatecas for a year and then moved to Mexico City where he showed his Mexican works at San Carlos Academy.

Nono Bandera said that living in Mexico changed his life and his art. "Life here is more direct than it is in Spain. The food, the music, and the people in general are more blatant. My colors changed to a more brilliant palette after living here for a while." The other Spaniards feel the same way. But as regards the vibrancy and romanticism of Mexico, Robert Garcia insists that this is due to the Spanish



GALERIA OMR

Spaniard Roberto Garcia's oil, "Fluxus" expresses the bursting energy of Madrid's new art life. The show of five young painters is at Galeria OMR in Col. Roma.

influence here.

Garcia is a *caballo*, an expression that means he moves between two cities; he's a commuter of sorts. The artist maintains two studios, one in Madrid and the other in his hometown, a *pueblito* called Mombeltran. Like the other artists, Garcia needs the high-energy interchange of ideas in Madrid, but also prefers the tranquility of the country studio to think out his ideas. His work is minimalist paintings on paper.

Gloria Del Mazo is from Belvia de la Jara, Toledo. She agrees that "...life in the streets of Madrid is very dynamic. There is an interchange of information in the bars, the metro, the theaters, the cine and all the arts," she adds. Del Mazo's paintings use collaged photocopies of familiar architectural monuments and then architectural elements are hand-painted next to the collages.

Manuel Bouzo moved from his home town of Orense to Madrid when he was four years old, but took fifteen years off to live on the island of Ibiza, near Majorca. "This was in the 1960s when Ibiza was a hippy place where lots of rock musicians came to stay," explained Bouzo. His paintings combine two styles: one an iconographic, figurative symbol, and the other part an abstract, textured color field.

Carlos Vidal has made a series concentrating on his current three obsessions; liquor, cigarettes and perfume. Previously he painted a series on bullfights. All of the Leger-like paintings are done in red, orange and yellow and have words written on the canvases. Nono Bandera has made a series of five small canvases and four large ones, sometimes using very old paintings by other artists as backgrounds to play off of.

These five artists have brought a breath of fresh paint from the vitality of Madrid and will, no doubt, be returning to Spain with new ideas they will have acquired in their visit to Mexico. The exhibit continues through Jan. 12.

Madrid, Five Painters

Galeria OMR

Plaza Rio de Janeiro 54, Col. Roma