

## Undersea Paintings By Mary Melikian

On the evening of August 23, the Jose Carbonells, of Washington Square North, were host and hostess to an invited group of art critics, artists, and the press, for a preview of the under-sea paintings by Mary Melikian. The spacious high-ceilinged mansion and its garden were hosts to the pictures, admirably hung and well lighted.

Mary Melikian recognizably paints from the heart, the emotion, as well as from the intellect. She has taste, that most enviable quality in any creative person. She has courage, indeed, to have gone down into the depths of the ocean with a snorkel, Coufage, and a devouring curiosity that would brook no postponement.

She has caught an indescribable kind of light, in these underwater paintings, which of course, had to be painted from memory — with the help of borrowed special aquariums. They seem to be dimensionless, yet have an undefined, unseen fourth or fifth dimension of the imagination, beyond what the eye sees. Where she has painted swimming fish, we actually felt weightless, as we felt the fish must.

In selecting a whimsical, brilliant butterfly fish, as a special favorite, an eminent Chinese artist at our elbow said, "Me too!" A very special delight, that we two should agree! The only figure painting in the show, titled "May Flowers," is a simple, graceful composition of a piquant-faced lady admiring brilliant flowers no lovelier than herself. "Submarine Garden" has the evocative mystery of a dream; swift-moving multi-colored fish slashing in and out between thread-thin swaying stems of sea vegetation.

"Moonworld, 2062," will, if you have ever been held entranced by moon magic, give you lovely, cool thrills. It's indescribable. See it.

Mary Melikian's recent show at the Burr Gallery was well received by local critics. Miss Melikian, a member of the staff of the Grand Central Galleries, though of Armenian background, received her art education at the Rhode Island School of Design, beginning her career as a textile designer. Miss Buena-Alicia Kuehne, of Horizon magazine—who is also a director of Young American Artists Conference—sponsored the current show.

—Mabel MacDonald Currier

Villager

Greenback

22 Novembre 1964

France

## Mary MELIKIAN

Galerie John J. Myers

LE don de l'aquarelle a visité Mary Melikian et il nous vaudra ainsi de bien agréables moments. Si les fleurs accaparent son intérêt, c'est plus sur les paysages que je me pencherai. Il y a d'elle, entre autres, une vue de Florence.



en rose, en vert, qui est de premier plan. D'une transparence, d'une fluidité rare, et toutefois si réelle dans ce brouillard aqueux. Mais il est amusant de constater que Miro semble l'avoir influencée et que l'art de ce dernier se retrouve dans la graphie nerveuse et dans le trait alerte de cette artiste.

Elle jongle harmonieusement avec la couleur et semble vivre à l'aise dans un monde où l'emporterait l'optimisme, la grâce et l'euphorie que connaissent ceux qui ont l'âme pure et communiquent journellement avec la nature, dans la fréquentation de laquelle ils pourraient exister, ni créer.

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Mary Melikian has been graced with the gift of watercolor -- thus affording us most pleasurable moments. Although flowers capture her interest, I myself incline toward her landscapes. We have, among others, a view of Florence done by her in pink and green which is first rate. It has a rare transparency and fluidity and yet is so realistic in that misty fog. It is interesting to note that there seems to be some influence of Miro whose vigorous calligraphy and lively stroke are found again in this artist's work.

She skillfully manipulates harmonious colors and seems to be at home in a world where optimism, grace, and joy prevail -- a world known only to the pure of spirit who commune daily with nature. Without this intimacy they could neither exist nor create.