

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1967)

Heft: 1534

Artikel: "What have i done?"

Autor: MM.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696096>

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“WHAT HAVE I DONE?”

Exhibition of Paintings by Selma Vaz Dias

That strange title has been given by the artist to one of her best pictures. It is the head of a woman in a white hat, wearing a green mask, and it would be difficult to imagine a better name, for the vivid colouring and powerful expression say it all. And with these two terms we have the essence of Selma Vaz Dias's work. It would be difficult to pick out her best paintings, for the mood varies from the “Flower Child”'s wistfulness to the stark fright in the eyes of Othello in “Have you prayed tonight, Desdemona?”; from the compelling elusiveness in the white face of “Selene, Mistress of the Moon” to the superb flippancy shown on the woman's countenance in “Couldn't care less!” The artist's own state of mind and emotions of the moment finds wonderful expression in her work. That is perhaps why her abstracts and flowers do not seem to convey the same convincing message as her portrayals of people and animals. In “The Nuns” she manages to put their lives, past, present and future, in a few coiffed heads grouped closely together, and the whole gamut of convent life, its privations and compensations, secret hopes and fears, are expressed in a most sensitive way on the faces of those women. The farmer with whom “The Old Circus Horse” has found a home, looks at his companion with sympathy and endearing bewilderment, not quite understanding that the old horse should still be inclined to prance nostalgically.

These are only a few pictures chosen from over sixty shown at the EVA HAUSER GALLERY at 281 Finchley Road, N.W.3. The exhibition will be open until 11th November, and it is well worth seeing. Miss Vaz Dias's friends who have known her as a successful actress and wife of Dr. H. W. Egli (President of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and of the Federation of Swiss Societies in Great Britain) will be surprised to find her a successful artist as well. She was born in Amsterdam and came to England at the age of ten. At school, she chose elocution rather than painting which she only took up three years ago. She is self-taught, and even her portraits (there is an excellent one of Picasso and an interesting sketch of Dame Edith Evans) are from memory. She still continues to act on films and television but she seems to find more satisfaction in the creative art of painting. At the same time, there is an exhibition of interesting woodcarvings by Edward Gerring.

MM

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It does not happen every day. It only happens from now till end of April 1968 that the Swiss in Great Britain together with their British friends are invited to Dürrenaesch by the HOME FOR SWISS LIVING ABROAD to a Jubilee holiday at reduced costs: 10% — 100% on a party ticket of at least 10 people, 50% on board and lodging which brings the price down to 16s. 1d. per person per day resp. 13s. 6d. when you do your own bed. The first party has already left. The next departure is scheduled for 8th November. You cannot have a cheaper holiday. Please make your application now. Apply to Dr. Erik Wiget, 1 Umbria Street, Roehampton, London S.W.15.

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PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 a 18h00.

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CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2^e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches a 13h00.

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PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 346-5281.

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SERVICES IN GERMAN : at St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3, every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (7-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: ABBey 2895.