

Painting wild and noisy

● **EVE JOHNSON** reviews three local art shows including Futura Bold, an exhibition by four Emily Carr students

FUTURA Bold is a group show of very large and very vigorous paintings by four fourth year painting students at the Emily Carr College of Art: Angela Grossmann, Derek Root, Graham Gillmore and Attila Richard Lukacs.

This is the sort of show that provokes people to talk about energy. There's the energy involved in just making all of these huge works — some of them eight-by-10-feet — to say nothing of hauling them in and out of the gallery.

There's also the energy of the style, which boldly goes where the new crop of European expressionists have gone before: thick applications of pigment, furious brushwork and the return of agonized figures on a grand scale.

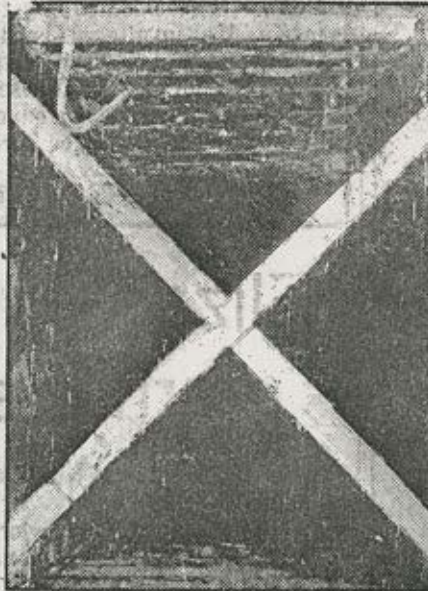
For that reason alone Futura bold is worth seeing. It's a St. Bernard pup of an exhibition: more movement than direction but plenty of potential for growth.

Lukacs has moved from his paintings of sides of beef into the meat locker itself and out beyond meat into the mythological territory of the minotaur.

Grossman, the most figurative of the four painters, has a sure draftsman's touch. The decisively drawn arm that extends from the right side of Three in a Row — three standard young-expressionist figures in a standard young-expressionist room — is like a minor statement of independence. It gives me faith that Grossman will say something interesting when the mystique of painting big, bold and messy has lost its grip.

Futura Bold is at the Pitt International Galleries, 36 Powell Street through Saturday. Prices range from \$300 to \$600.

● Salmon Harris's works at the UBC Fine



MEAT Locker Interior II by Rick Luckacs: gone beyond meat

Arts Gallery are as quiet and controlled as the Futura Bold paintings are wild and noisy.

His is an exhibition of white space, a Japanese approach to esthetics. Harris uses two-by-three-foot sheets of handmade paper and does everything he can to exploit its qualities, including leaving most of it blank.

The effect is cool and austere. Harris's 19 works are a profession of restraint and of painstaking technique, as uncompromising as the rock-hard skull in his self-portraits.

The exhibition continues at the UBC Fine Arts Gallery through Dec. 21. Prices range from \$800 to \$1,200.

● "Everything I make I dream of first. Sleeping or not I dream it. Then I try to mold the clay to my imagination."

There's no doubt that Antonio Galdino, one of the folk artists from northeastern Brazil whose work is on display at the Raymond Chow gallery, 560 Beatty Street, through Dec. 22, is mining his dreams.

His unglazed clay sculptures are at once too strange and too authentic for the waking imagination: a fish that might be a dolphin, or perhaps just a sculpin, with a little man bent over the fin on its back, or a standing creature with corrugated skin eating a cobra.

Ze Caboclo's works are comic daytime fantasy. In Animal School a monkey teacher expounds to an earnest semi-circle of dog, armadillo, goat and elephant.

And Manuel Antonio makes miniature musicians and festival celebrants; the 27 characters of Bumba include a devil and some yellow animals with black spots.

Their work was brought to Vancouver by Claudio Stankov, a Brazilian sculptor who has immigrated to Canada. This small exhibition, open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., is a delightful diversion for anyone interested in folk art.

There it is, a 10-foot ant sculpture, poised over photographer Henri Robideau. The caption reads: "Bugsy, The Giant Ant, A Character from Lucy Maud Montgomery's Undiscovered Blockbuster ATTACK OF THE KILLER ANTS, teaches giantthropologist Henri Robideau that Giantthropology can sometimes be BIG TROUBLE!"

Robideau, renowned "giantthropologist," is exhibiting a collection of photographs, The Return of the Pancanadienne Giantthropological Survey at the Coburg Gallery, 314 West Cordova, through Saturday.

Robideau's concept of giant things has been getting more abstract lately, turning to subjects such as Edmonton's "monster shopping mall," the "giant crassness" of Honest Ed's Toronto store and the "giant spot in Canadian history" where the last spike was driven in the trans-continental railroad.

But lovers of the innocently grotesque should be satisfied by Bugsy, the giant Wawa Goose of Wawa Ontario, the giant sasquatch, the giant white horse and the giant Ukranian Easter egg. Prices range from \$350 to \$1,250.