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Reef towns pioneer new interest in art exhibitions

By the Art Critic

SOMETHING is happening in Springs and Benoni, which may in time benefit all professional artists in the Transvaal and is already putting fresh heart into artists who regret the temporary fade-out last year of the South African Academy.

Benoni, which has already held two exhibitions of work by Transvaal artists, organized by its art society and with Springs Municipality, has invited the whole exhibition of the Transvaal Art Society (which will end here on March 29) to be displayed first in Benoni, then in Springs.

All this means that the work of exhibiting artists has a far wider opportunity of being seen beyond Johannesburg, and that the names of Transvaal artists will become more generally known.

In Springs, too, the chief librarian, Mr. G. E. Peck, who has for about a year organized exhibitions in the library there, is to hold a series of fortnightly one-man shows by Transvaal artists, who will be invited in turn to send a small collection of their works to hang on each side of a large double screen in the centre of the library.

Other exhibitions of a cultural kind have been held alternately with the art shows.

Herman Wald

EARLY next month Herman Wald, the sculptor, will leave for Israel, Italy and France. Having done so much imaginative work for cinema decoration here, he feels, as he puts it, that he wants to see life, its tragedy and comedy, in three dimensions again. In his own words: "Paris, the mighty vacuum cleaner, will ventilate my soul; Rome will remind me that man does not live by bread alone; London, now a great art centre of the world, will show what is happening in art today; and in Israel I will see the rebirth of a new civilization."

Mr. Wald will exhibit in these centres to see what the reaction will be to his own "humble contribution to the arts."

Before leaving he will hold an exhibition, opening on February 19, at his own studio, the Beaux-Arts Gallery, 44 Pritchard Street.



HERMAN WALD.