



PAINTINGS PREVIEWED — An exhibition of paintings by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Elliott was previewed Friday evening in the Charles Burchfield Center, Buffalo State University College. From the left are Mrs. Elliott, Dr. Edna M. Lindemann, curator of the Burchfield Center, and Mr. Elliott.

Days of Courtship Are Recalled In Display of Elliott Paintings

Art work finished during the days of their courtship is included in the retrospective of Virginia Cuthbert and Philip Elliott to run from tomorrow through Dec. 30 in the Charles Burchfield Center, Buffalo State University College.

"I've destroyed most of the work from those (Paris) days," said Mr. Elliott. He then explained that work he and his wife began in 1930 while they courted in Paris is in the retrospective. They married in 1935.

In an interview at Friday evening's preview Mr. Elliott explained the couple's feelings about the community tribute.

"Both my wife and I are very much moved, not only to see all our pictures of different periods together, but we are moved by the generous support and interest of so many people in Buffalo."

MORE THAN 120 works are in the exhibition, with Mrs. Elliott describing her style as "surrealist realist," and Mr. Elliott, noting he is moving toward abstracts from realism.

The couple moved to Buffalo in 1941 when Mr. Elliott became director of the Albright Art School. He is presently a fulltime professor at the State University of Buffalo.

Both artists began their works at an early age, Mrs. Elliott at age 4, Mr. Elliott at 7 when he sent an illustrated letter to Santa Claus.

Asked which painting she liked best in the retrospective, Mrs. Elliott smiled and said: "It's like asking a mother of 12, which child she likes best."

Mr. Elliott explained the enjoyment of being an artist. "It's a compulsive thing. Sometimes it's unhappy, sometimes, it's very satisfying. Overall, I wouldn't be anything else."

JUDGING BY the large turnout and the compliments given both artists as they were interviewed, their works are appreciated and respected.

Dr. Edna M. Lindemann, curator of the Burchfield Center, has known the couple

since they first arrived in Buffalo.

"They have achieved the status of respected artists in the community. They have done so many exhibitions and helped so many young people," she said.

She explained 14 anonymous persons contributed to fund the show, program and preview party.

"I've watched their sensitivity to people and their contributions and the respect they've achieved," Dr. Lindemann added.

THEIR SENSITIVITY began at an early age, as evidenced by the earliest work of Mr. Elliott's in the show — the letter to Santa Claus.

"Dear Santa Claus: I will be a good boy. I sent you a letter the other day . . . and I hope I will get a great many toys and I will hope you will bring the poor little childrn (sic) a lot of toys." Philip Elliott.

"I've hoped to do this show for a long time," Dr. Lindemann concluded.

Cuthbert-Elliott Art Exhibit Previewed

A tribute to two Western New York artists was paid Friday evening with a reception and preview of the art exhibition "Retrospective: Virginia Cuthbert and Philip Elliot."

The representative collection by the husband-wife artist team who have lived, painted and taught in Buffalo for the last 30 years, is set to open Sunday in the Charles E. Burchfield Center—Western New York Forum for American Art in Rockwell Hall on the Elmwood Ave. campus of Buffalo State College.

Open to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Fridays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays, the show will continue through Dec. 30.

"The friends of the Elliotts are as happy as we have been to present the show and have been helpful and enthusiastic to lend the works on exhibit here which have come from all around the country," said Edna M. Lindemann, curator of the Burchfield Center.

Among the 121 pieces collected, for example, are Miss Cuthbert's ventures into realism such as the "Buffalo Printing Shop" (1941), the "Office Building" (1946), the "Quiet Street" (1952), "Memories of Childhood" (1952) and "The Green Leaves of Summer" (1965).

The many Elliott impressionistic samples include the "Torn Cloth" (1952), "Spanish Garden" (1961) and "Landscape" (1966).

Commenting on the artistic co-existence with her husband while surrounded by friends and well-wishers, Miss Cuthbert noted:

"We are each other's best critic and take to heart the advise the other has to give. Our styles contrast so strongly, of

course however, that we maintain our own artistic identity."

Elliott was director of the School of Fine Arts at the Albright Art Gallery from 1941 to 1954. He continued as director and chairman of the department of art when the school was taken over by the University of Buffalo and held the post until 1969.