

## A POWERFUL SHOW AT MILLS COLLEGE

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Tribune Art Critic

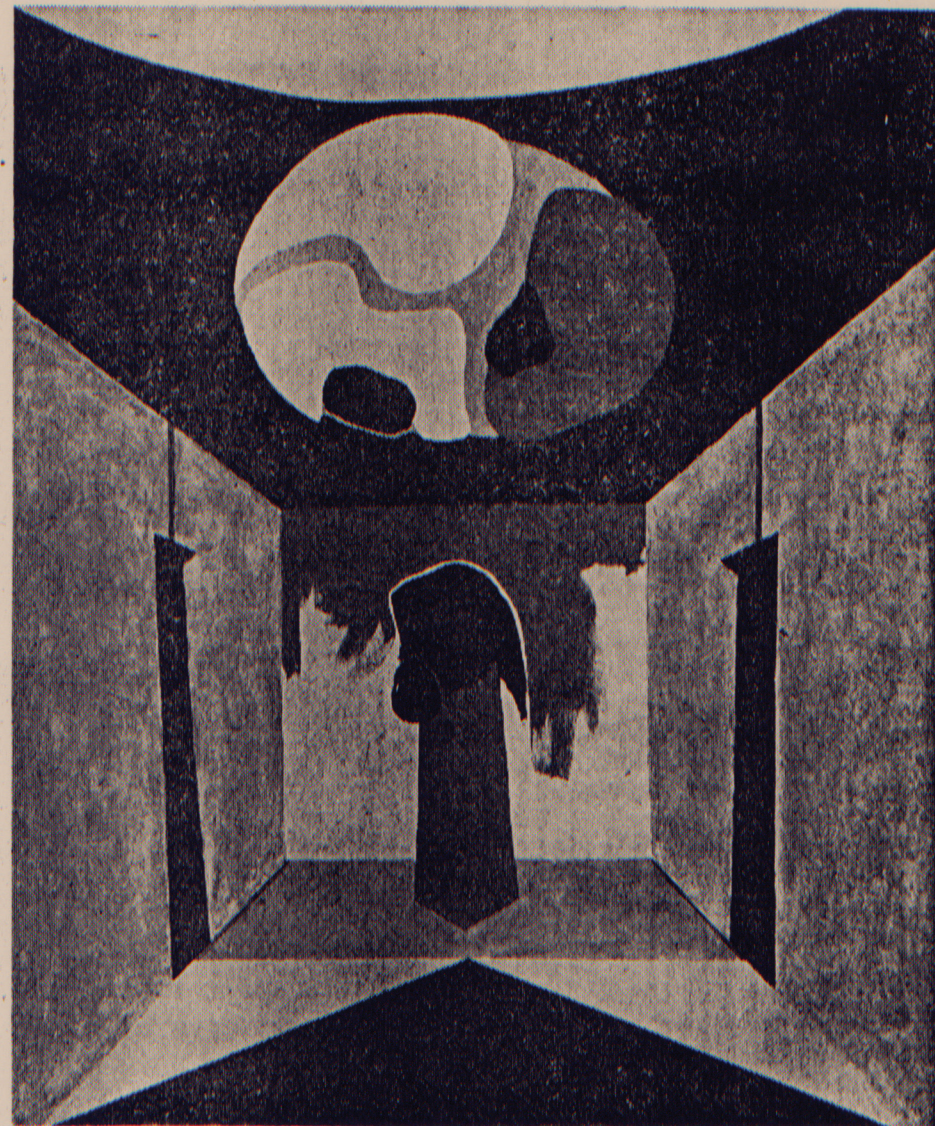
We asked Berkeley painter Arne Hiersoux to meet us at the Mills College Art Gallery to discuss his recent paintings on exhibit there through March 16. After reading Paul Mills' statements in the catalogue on the "on-going drama" of his art, we worried about interpretation of intent and symbols.

Charmingly evasive, the young artist was not about to be explicit over what he was sure was obvious or open to personal interpretation. He said: "You ask the questions. I'll answer. Or you answer the questions the paintings ask."

These unique, complex, big (one is 15-feet wide) paintings provide a visual and emotional experience with a powerful cumulative impact. A new art, it employs pictographs, pop devices, abstract expressionist techniques, optical illusions for intimate emotional expressionism of a universal theme, and through oppositions sets up an interaction that is practically a literal description of it.

In a constant state of flux, the paintings oppose geometric and organic forms, architectural and surreal space, hard-edge mat color and brush-textured nebulous color, balance and counter-balance, gravity and weightlessness, the intuitive and the contrived, pain and ecstasy.

The paintings asked us: "What is going on in our equivocal space?" Conception and contraception. The creation and destruction of life and perhaps of an idea. "What is that soft, dear thing impaled on the staff here and pierced by a cross there?" Life murdered before birth. The pain in guilt. "What are these traffic dotted lines and arrows and blockades?" Contemporary directives for a timeless journey to the innermost recesses of



AN UNTITLED SYMBOLIC PAINTING BY ARNE HIERSOUX

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The Mills Gallery is open Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, 1 to 4 p.m.

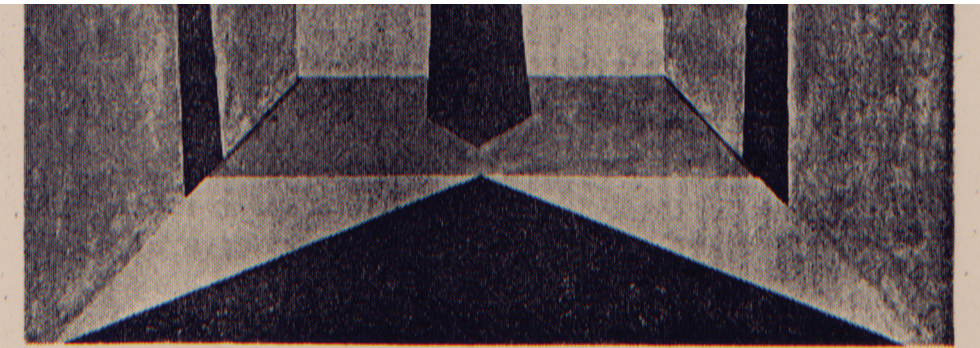
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Then we asked Hiersoux: "Doesn't the pierced thing hurt?" Pointing to drops which might have been blood, he said: "That's what the tears are for."

He volunteered that Freudians would have a ball reading his sym-



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Clark Worswick, 25-year-old Berkeley photographer and film maker and Hiersoux' friend, has designed the handsome catalogue and shows sensitive and revealing photographs of the artist at work along with "photoliths" (a new print process) of imagery in the paintings demonstrating power of forms in black and white.

Worswick, who has traveled extensively, worked in Bengal with Sataygit Ray, the Indian film director, and has been working on a documentary film at Harvard.

The Mills Gallery also is featuring a large exhibit of Worswick's documentary photography taken in New York, Los Angeles and Sacramento. With the technical skill to match his sharp eye, Worswick captures with compassion and wit, the human tragedy and comedy. In addition to these wondrous documents on man, his condition and environment, is a "still-life" of a peeling billboard in which the late

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