

MING. C. LOWE



In a desert of pretty art, the works of Palm Desert neo-expressionist Ming C. Lowe provide an oasis of naked truths portrayed in powerful urban, avant-garde images.

This woman cares about her art and the unsettling things she encounters in her life. She may see the less pleasing side of reality and express it no-holds-barred on canvas. but her outlook is positive, that of a seeker desirous of following the road to truth, regardless of where it takes her.

"The desire is an addiction, the manifestation is alchemy. For me, art is a way of praying, a way of earning my wishes," Lowe writes. Art and life are inseparable to her.

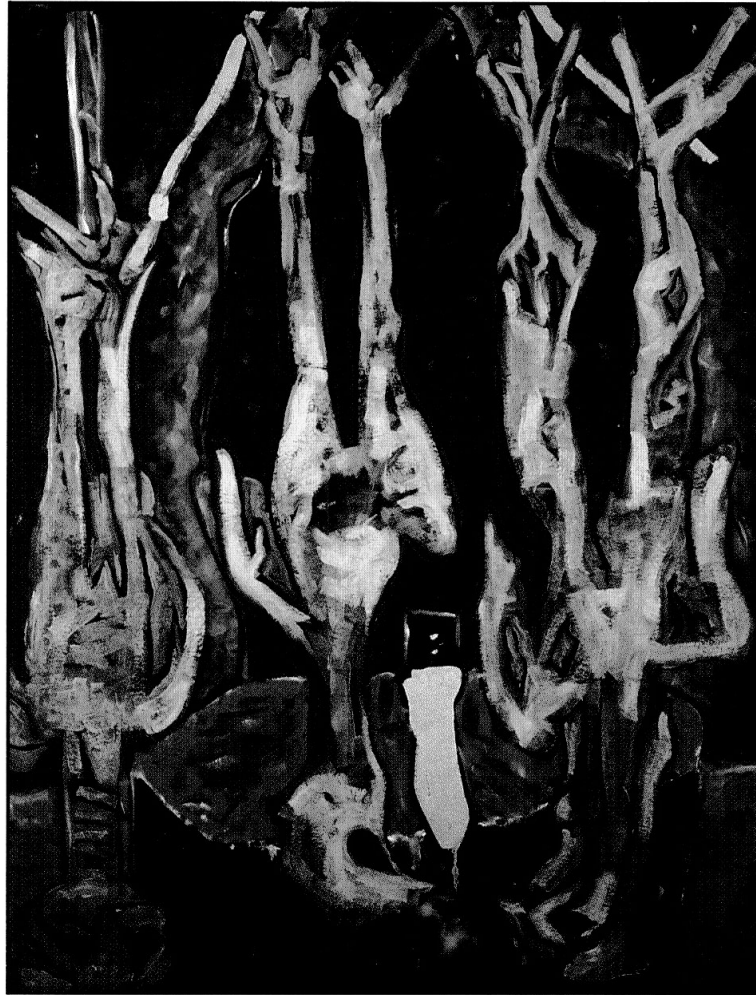
This is manifest in her latest six large-scale new oil paintings depicting, as she says, "the dark side of a Caribbean cruise." In describing her cruise, words tumble out, one upon another.

She speaks of the disparities between the

poor and the rich in Jamaica, the frightening images of chickens hanging upside down slashed by their throats, the picturesque main boulevard of Montego Bay crawling with drug pushers, and the shenanigans of her taxi driver accepting kickbacks wherever he goes.

These images are captured in a powerful, aggressive style of painting which maintains a classical, lyrical sense of balance and composition. In keeping with her neo-expressionist mode, Lowe maintains recognizable imagery in her art.

In 1984 Lowe provided artistic commentary on the imminence of war among the superpowers of the world, in a one-woman exhibit at College of the Desert. COD art professor Austin Killian wrote: "This gifted, perceptive woman rages with the primitive inherited anarchy of humanity. She is young, and she is armed with electronic arrows and computer-swift revelation, sent to warn us



that it is almost too late . . . anyone who talks with Ming C. Lowe or looks at her paintings soon feels a sense of urgency, a hurtling rush of comment relentlessly tumbling forth."

In 1982-83 Lowe's earlier series, dealing with pop culture and rock-and-roll music, was featured in a one-woman exhibition at the Kimball Art Center, in Park City, Utah.

Some of this earlier work is part of the private collections of such celebrities as the Kingston Trio, the Grateful Dead, Big Brother and the Holding Company, the Animals and Velvet Underground.

But a remaining body of that period, plus some of the war series as well as Lowe's latest commentary on the Caribbean and Central America is available for viewing at Lowe's studio/gallery.

True to her urban leanings, Lowe follows in the style of her Los Angeles and New York artist friends by opening her studio/gallery to

the public. "Open studio tours are common in the big city," she says, "Artists will set up their floor space to include a large room for work space, another large room as a gallery, and a cubbyhole to sleep in."

Ming Lowe has painted in the desert for 20 years. Primarily, she is self-taught, although she has studied under a scholarship with Francoise Gilot; at Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts, the La Jolla Art Center, and at College of the Desert.

If the stars are right, Ming Lowe's world could explode into fame and fortune. Meanwhile, she continues to seek the truth through her own vision and share it with the rest of us.

The Ming C. Lowe Studio/Gallery is located at 73-985 Catalina Way, Palm Desert, on the corner of Catalina Way and Portola Avenue. Hours are Thursday through Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, call 346-9565. □