

## People & places

# Naive and surrealistic

## Paintings

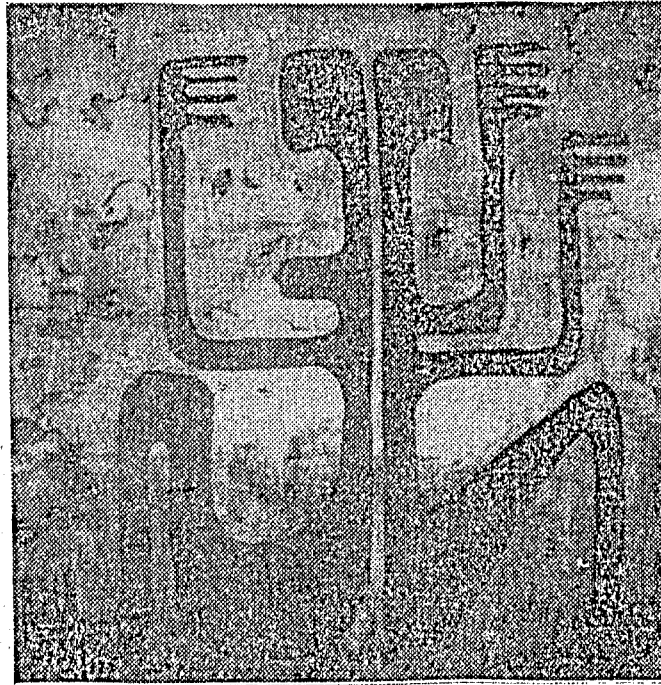
EXHIBITIONS of naive and surrealist art opened at the Mehrshahr Gallery on Monday night, and both are worth a visit before they close on Saturday.

The batik paintings of Lone Sader Nielson are in fact not so much naive as they are re-explorations of sometimes familiar imagery through a modified batik technique.

Her tree-figures are hunting almost ghostly while her treatment of geometric and abstract designs strike a responsive chord. Her geometric forms retain an organic appeal natural to the batik medium.

The colors used are appealing, and varied, making the fabrics suitable both for colorful wall hangings and invite extended examination. Most dramatic is a picture within a picture, a tree-spook in purple framed within a larger forest scene.

Nearly as attractive as the batik themselves are their



*Back to back on painted batik: from the exhibition of Lone Sader Nielson*

prices: all under 25,000 rials with most under 10,000; by the end of the reception following the opening, she had already sold some half-dozen.

Another artist who has

master his palette is Ali Akbar Safaian, whose exhibition is upstairs at the Mehrshahr.

An Iranian surrealist with a disciplined brush, though not a glossy oil finish,

Safaian varies color subject matter and composition better than most. One might discern in many of the canvases, though, a preoccupation with the nude female torso.

In addition to the menageries of strange shapes forms and figures on many of his canvases, Safaian has populated his work several individual portraits.

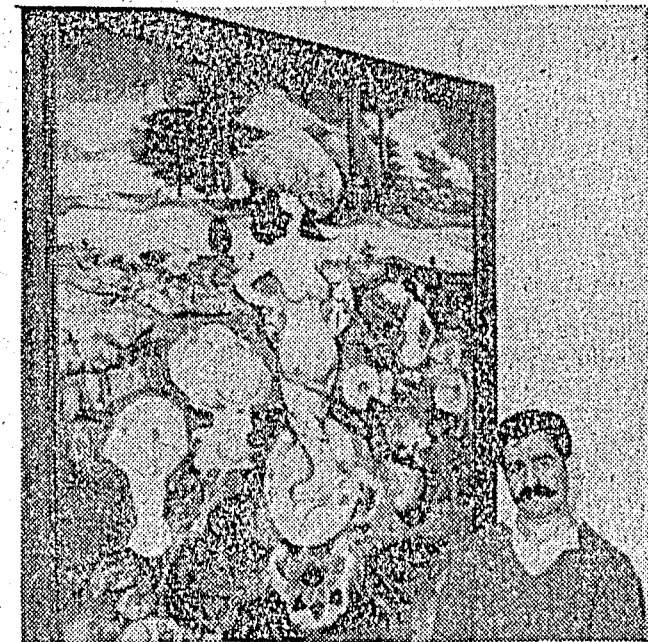
A number of Safaian's works resemble those of Hieronimus Bosch but aptly modernized and Persianized. He skirts around the spiritual imagery of many other Iranian surrealists without letting his work be dominated by that single theme.

His tableaux range from colorful arrangements of mountains of bizarre detail to simple slightly bleached treatments of single subjects, in a surrealist vein.

Safaian is no newcomer to the Tehran gallery scene, with a show last year at the Mehrshahr and the year before the Takhte Jamshid gallery.



*Lone Sander Nielson with one of her painted batiks.*



*Ali Akbar Safaian and his brand of surrealism, now at the Mehrshahr Gallery.*