

Gibran Exhibit In Library Displays Mysticism In Paintings, Writings

By BARBARA DEAN

Thresher Staff Reporter

The exhibition of the works of Kahlil Gibran this week in the second floor lobby of the Fondren Library gives an insight into the mystic and provocative qualities of the works of the artist.

The exhibit includes many of his paintings and sketches, as well as selections from some of his leading works, "The Prophet," "Tears and Laughter," "Jesus, the Son of Man," and "The Madman." Also included are definitive critical interpretations by Mrs. Annie Salem Otto, who has published a volume of criticism on Gibran.

The mystic quality of his paintings and writings can be related to his underlying philosophical themes: Life-Spirit, man's dual animal and spiritual

nature, and other transcendental concepts relating man to the universe. His figures cling to one another showing human need; their faces radiate pathos, compassion and serenity.

His writings, like his paintings, cannot be reduced to a single interpretation; they cover the whole range of human emotions. His consistency as an artist is apparent in the recurring figure of the Life-Spirit, which is omnipresent whenever Gibran deals in realms of man in the abstract.

Kahlil Gibran spoke of man's "desire to fascinate" as the basis for a poetry which exists in his mind. Gibran is a possessor of this "poetry of the soul," and his figures impart a unique feeling of tranquility and peace to the viewer.