Exhibitions

At Art School we were taught that exhibiting work was a very important part of being an Artist and that, like lecturing with slides, exhibiting was a 'theatrical experience' at which a per-

son should get better with practice. However, when there are 20 other Bachelor of Fine Art Graduating Students all looking to put their exhibitions up on the walls during that same Monday, this can present problems! My allocated space in the Gymnasium at Maidstone College of Art had solid concrete walls, and had it not been for my Personal Adviser, Paul Harris, commandeering a set of stepladders and the Technician's percussion drill, I might still have been trying to hang the next day when invited people were due to arrive! We students were each allowed to borrow up to 9 frames (which had glass with aluminium edges screwed into wood) and were to be returned to the College Stores immediately after each BA (Hons) Graduating Show had ended.



Maidstone College of Art BA (Hons) Graduating Exhibition, First Public Day, Tuesday 6 July 1976. Photo by The Late Mr. Harold S Wise.



First Bajazzo Gallery Exhibition in Marborough, April 1979, with information about the works but not as yet any Maps on the walls. N'B., Gallery Prop. Mrs. Karon Staniland with welcoming cup of coffee!

ganise some much-appreciated publicity.

At short-notice from the Association of Commonwealth Universities when another more-Academic Graduate dropped out of a course in Canada, as a Reserve, I was flown out to UBC Vancouver on New Year's Eve 1979–80 to do my Master of Fine Arts Degree. This required an MFA Graduating Exhibition to be staged in the Student Union Building early in 1982, and I'm indebted to Eric Eggertson of the University Newspaper for donating this black & white handling print used in Charlotte Olsen's excellent review.

My experiences with exhibitions thereafter followed very much the 'swings and roundabouts' of fortune, with a successful show in the Oxford Playhouse Theatre in 1978 (i.e. with several helpful reviews in the media preceding a good attendance and half-a-dozen sales of work at a time when V.A.T. was 15%) immediately to be followed by a Winter show in Swindon Wyvern Theatre which saw no reviews or sales but helped to spread my name and introduce the paintings to a wider Public in Wiltshire. This in turn led to a friendly, lifelong platonic relationship with Mrs. Karon Staniland, kindly Proprietor of the Bajazzo Gallery in Marlborough, who immediately staged a successful Spring exhibition there in 1979 having contacted her journalist friends in advance to or-



University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Department of Fine Arts MFA Graduating Exhibition, Student Union Building Gallery.

Photo of Artist Bill Pike by Eric Eggertson on 19 January 1982 and used in the "Ubyssey" University Newspaper.