

ALTMAN SIEGEL

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Fried, Alexander, "Art," *San Francisco Examiner*, March 30, 1958



"CITADEL" (above) is a symbolic image in archaic, abstract form, in the memorial exhibit of the late Sculptor Adaline Kent at the San Francisco Museum of Art. "Standing Figure" (right) typifies the sensitive, more conservative work of Miss Kent's earlier career, 20 years ago.



IN MEMORY of the late Adaline Kent, the San Francisco Museum of Art has opened a wide ranging exhibit of her sculptures, drawings and paintings.

Her death in a car accident saddened the art community for she had fine, friendly qualities as a person, in addition to her artistic gifts and courage.

At the entrance to the exhibit stand several figure sculptures Miss Kent made 20 years ago. They show her sensitive talent in a lyrical, conservative form. At the

time, her work showed relation to such masters as Kolbe and Despiau.

The bulk of the show, however, studies her later insights and experiments, when she probed the realm of the subconscious for more mysterious, even grotesque sculptural forms and meanings.

"I want the power of Stonehenge and the magic of the South Pacific in the landscape of the wide present," she once said.

Truly enough, her sculptural fantasies — with their bulk, twist, curl and thrust of shape — often have a primitive tone. And their materials (terra cotta, magnesite, plaster — sometimes inlaid with pebbles or shells) retain an earthy, rather than polished look.

Symbolisms

To me, her symbolisms are most expressive in such works as her archaic, abstract "Citadel" or her small "Hermit" with its horizontal black stripes on a stark bodily shape.

Her drawings are often

"idea studies" for three-dimensional work, though they also aim to be patterns of expression in themselves. Her earlier sketches — of figures, Mexicans, flowers and landscape — reveal her talent in a more obvious, traditional manner.

An affectionate whimsical touch is charming in several child figures (one doing a handstand) and her stylized sculpture of a long-beaked, long-necked pelican.

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