

# ART AND BELIEF

*An Exhibit of Mormon Art was held at the Salt Lake Public Library, December 10, 1966, to January 7, 1967. We present here a selection of the paintings, introduced by an account of the preparation and rationale of the exhibit by one of the participants, Dale Fletcher, and a review of the exhibit by Douglas Hill, an Instructor in English at Brigham Young University who has a deep interest in the visual arts (his photographic essay on early Mormon churches appeared in DIALOGUE, Autumn, 1966).*

## ART AND BELIEF: A GROUP EXHIBITION

*Dale T. Fletcher*

Could there be a "Mormon Art" — something different, vital, worthy of both words, Mormon and art? During the school year 1965-66 this and related questions were being discussed much around the B.Y.U. art department, mostly on an extracurricular basis. Typical of these numerous informal discussions was one which took place in the graduate students' painting lab during Fall Semester. Larry Prestwich, who had just exhibited a series of drawings based on the Book of Mormon, was talking with Trevor Southey, a Rhodesian who recently joined the Church, about the prospect of new distinctively L.D.S. art; and Larry finally suggested, "Let's have an exhibit." Trevor had previously visited the Salt Lake City Public Library and had made acquaintance with the person then in charge of art, who had given him a tentative invitation to have an exhibition.

One of the students who became deeply interested was Dennis Smith from Alpine, Utah, one of the most searching and experimental of those who later contributed work to the exhibition. It was he who towards the end of Spring Semester invited a group of those interested to his home where we all bared our feeling, and began to make plans. We decided to each make a strenuous effort to produce some work that would represent our desires and intentions