

Art Prof Albrizio, Back From Europe, Discourages Faddist Approach to Subject

By LaRita Smith

"If there is anyone in here like the many that are being guided by a faddistic or so-called popular approach to the "doing" of art, and who merely paint what some stupid people want, you may as well fold up. You might as well devote your time to making hats or dresses, or something which you would at least get paid for."

This is the advice of Conrad Albrizio, associate professor of fine arts, frankly gives his art students.

Back at teaching after a two year leave of absence, Albrizio forcefully explains art truths, as he sees them. The professor, short of stature, must look straight upward at most of his painting students as he tells them, "An artist is not concerned too much with the superficial appearance of his painting. It must reveal, among other things, that you are thinking correctly about what seems important to you."

Exhibits in December

A one-man show of his oil paintings, the result of intensive work, often more than eight hours a day, under a Rosenwald Fellowship in New York, will be hung in the LSU Art Gallery in December. Some time this winter the Passadoit Galleries in New York will exhibit 14 pieces of his work. Under the fellowship he did research in color and form.

Began in New Orleans

Albrizio came south to New Orleans in 1919 at the age of 25 as an architectural draftsman, and began to paint in New Orleans in 1921. Later, his study and work in painting carried him to Italy, France, and Spain. Public buildings in several Southern states, among them the State Capitol and Annex at Baton Rouge, are decorated with hundreds of square feet of his frescoes.

Albrizio doesn't like to paint landscapes. He says the subject matter of his paintings is conditioned by the situation under which we live today. Former students say that he once stressed a social consciousness in the form of his painting. He thinks Picasso is wonderful, but insists that whatever he thinks about Picasso cannot be of serious consequence to others. In his leisure time he designs buildings. He likes to play chess.

An imaginative student can best picture Albrizio in a Mediterranean studio opening on to a patio luxuriant with vineyards and olive trees.

Members of the Department of Fine Arts who have known Albrizio's work saw that he exer-



Conrad Albrizio, LSU Fine Art professor, believes the students should paint what they think is correct and important (as well as what they like) and not be guided by the fashion of the day.