

# NEWS AND EXHIBITIONS OF THE WEEK IN ART

By CARLYLE BURROWS

Merton Clivette, venerable painter of Greenwich Village, holds the center of the stage at the Art Center with an exhibition of paintings which probably will be a shock to most souls who have a way of looking to art for subtle emotional or intellectual stimuli. The artist's name may be remembered in connection with a much press-agented showing at the New gallery a year or so ago. Quite unknown to the painters' world until he was "discovered" by Mr. George Hellman, Clivette seems to have been painting ever since with the utmost confidence in the opinion of his patron. He is a colorful personality and according to tradition has roamed the world over in various capacities, including that of a traveling magician. But it is one thing for an artist to devote a lifetime to growing great in art and another thing to try to achieve greatness in one's waning years with something like a bang. The latter case more nearly fits the case of Clivette. There are doubtless those who will go to his exhibition and, looking at his large canvases filled with swirling masses of paint, will recall Ruskin's famous criticism of Whistler. There are others, perhaps, who will give Clivette the benefit of the doubt and make the most of the undoubted vigor and force of his impressions.

THE G. S. NASSAUER  
COLLECTION  
of PAINTINGS by  
CLIVETTE  
at THE ART CENTER  
65 East 56th Street  
November 18th to 30th

## ART NOTES

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1929.

### Clivette and Others

By ELISABETH LUTHER GARY.

## Modern Art

Enormous canvases by Clivette fill the walls of the main gallery in the Art Centre at present where they will remain on view until the end of the month. Clivette was the forerunner of Soutine, apparently, for many of the Greenwich Village painter's canvases belong in the same metier and genre as that of Paris's latest "discovery," Soutine. Most of Clivette's figures are of heroic size and never let the spectator forget for a moment they are fashioned out of paint.

# REWARDING WEEK IN THE ART GALLERIES

And what shall one say of the lavish canvases by Clivette, at the Art Centre? Certainly, as decorative essays, these are antithetical to Erté's clean precision in every respect save that alone that concerns color sense. Clivette has a genuine flair for color, only unfortunately it is almost uniformly swamped by his even intenser flair for paint. If ever, one is here justified in saying that an artist has flung his palette at the canvas. The work is crude, raw, largely formless. It shrieks at you. There is even the suspicion that you may be in some positive danger as you stand there before these flamboyant compositions which are reported to have been a smashing hit in Paris. Kisling is quoted as considering one of the portraits as fine as anything by van Gogh. Clivette seems to this reviewer to be at his best in the swans, the fish and the angry waves; at his worst in the ghastly portrait of Mr. Nassauer.