

# Art News and Comment

## New York Exhibitions

By RALPH FLINT

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**D**URING the various preoccupations of the holiday season, art retires into a short midseason lull. With the coming week, however, a number of interesting and important fixtures are scheduled for the local galleries. Just now the New Gallery is the rendezvous for those who like their art with a good dash of bravura and brawn. Clivette, that colorful individuality in paint who made something of a stir with his last year's exhibition at the same gallery, is again on view, but with even more zest and substance than before in his work. He presents the interesting spectacle of a rampant individualist at close grips with himself and his medium, who, by virtue of his wide determination to achieve a mastery over both, dares at each and every step to storm the pictorial heights, technically as well as thematically. Clivette's most striking canvas this year is his boldly brushed-in vision of a swiftly descending eagle grappling with a swan, a scene reduced to spurtive shafts of light and color and for removed from the realm of representation. It is a tour de force, at first glance striking enough, and commending itself for the consistency of its vision and its handling.

But somehow or other the surge and rush of this painter's passages fail to sustain themselves after the first sharp encounter. There is no gainsaying the exhilarating experimentalism of the whole thing; the man cannot be denied his place in the pictorial sun. His gestures are superbly sweeping but unfortunately wanting in significance. Like his published manifestoes on art, his paintings resound with a wide emptiness. But he has unquestionably relished the whirling shapes that he finds among the birds and fishes, and translated them into sufficiently amusing patterns of light and color to suit his own purposes. His swiftly summarized vision of the "Pony Express," his three dark swans ranging their placid waters, his "Old Abe," set down from the painter's own vision of the mascot eagle that flew at the head of a certain regiment throughout the Civil War—these are all documents of personal interest, as expressive of the man as of the painter. It is a contentious art form that Clivette has devised, and he has won a certain following that is finding keen pleasure in broadcasting his talents.

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