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WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1965

Bodian And Kelly At The Provincetown Group

The Provincetown Group Gallery opened a two-man show of recent paintings of Betty Bodian and John Kelly in The Mews on Monday evening. The show attracted a large number of people who seemed to come to see the paintings themselves, rather than each other, a healthy trend in gallery-going.

Betty Bodian graciously discussed her evocative figure paintings with friends and strangers. "My concern is color," she said, "I love to use the female form as a foil for enigmatic and unpredictable color compositions. I don't consider myself a painter of the passing scene but I must admit that the lounging figures are derived from personal experiences of long, hot afternoons on Cape beaches."

This sensitive artist has been exhibiting in Provincetown and Boston since 1961 when she returned from two years of study in Paris. Before that she studied at The Cooper Union in New York.

John Kelly's work drew appreciative comments, especially from other artists. "Extraordinarily painterly," said a painter-instructor working and teaching in Provincetown.

Kelly's oils are strong and lush, despite the fact that the colors are, unexpectedly, almost pastel in tone and value. A group of collages indicates his consideration of contemporary "meanings" of banal objects in re-created contexts.

The concurrent group show has been augmented by Lily Harmon's recent etchings, a fascinating self-portrait by Arthur Cohen and new pieces by sculptors Reeves Euler and Bernard Simon.

The show will run until Sunday evening, August 1.

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