Wise, Jack Marlowe, painter (b at Centerville, Iowa 27 April 1928). During his art training at New Orleans, at Washington U and Florida State U, Wise absorbed the prevailing abstract expressionist style of painting. He moved to Mexico and from 1958 to 1961 taught batik in a workshop at San Miguel. In 1963, conscious of a need to restructure his approach to art, he immigrated to Canada and farmed in BC. When he returned to painting it was as a miniaturist dedicated to the microcosmic patterning of archetypal images. Wise's paintings since that time have been essentially icons, with the mandala, the mystic circle, as dominant image. Like many contemporary BC artists, Wise has turned to Asian art traditions. In 1966 he studied with Tibetan painting masters in India, who taught that the ultimate answers lay within oneself. With much virtuosity he combined eastern and western religious symbols in paintings reflecting the great archetypes that dominate the human unconscious. After periods in Vancouver, on Texada Island and in Victoria, where he taught at the Victoria College of Art, Wise returned in 1982 to the BC interior. [Wise has subsequently returned to Victoria and Vancouver.] -- George Woodcock, item 45 below, quoted in full.

NOTE: Many items in the following list refer to photocopies found with incomplete bibliographic data in the artists' files of the National Gallery of Art (Ottawa) and the University of British Columbia Fine Arts Gallery (Vancouver). Items I was unable to verify are marked with an asterisk ("*"). -- SC

**EXHIBITION CATALOGUES**


14. Wise, Jack. "An Apologetic Manifesto." Exhibition Announcement. Vancouver: New Design Gallery, April 1966. One-page statement, beginning, "I'm sorry that I paint small... Back to the small is... back to nature... [or] back to the specific and away from the large and sketchy generalization."


JOURNALS AND BOOKS

18. Amos, Robert. "Quiet, Respectful Healing Images." Illus. Victoria, B.C. Monday Magazine, 10 (April 20-26, 1984), 22. Review of Energy Transformations series, exhibited in Victoria, B.C. "The man will not be a celebrity, so we will have to pay attention to his paintings."


NEWSPAPER REVIEWS AND NOTICES


51. *"Beautiful Artistic Displays Gladden Both Heart and Mind." Powell River News, 29 May 1969. NDP political reception at which a Wise screen print was displayed.


73. Johnson, Eve. "From Whimsy to Outrage with Stops at Surrealism." Vancouver Sun, 4 July 1986, D10. A Wise mandala from the Burnaby Art Gallery's collection is included in a revival of the Burnaby Print Show.


79. "Taking a Voyage in a Magic Circle." Vancouver Sun, 25 November 1972, 35. "[Jack Wise]...who has never received the recognition he deserves, either at the local or national level."


90. Scott, Andrew. "Color-spangled Exhibition of Paintings Worth Waiting a Decade For." Vancouver Sun, 13 July 1978, B-3. Review of ten-year retrospective at Simon Fraser University Gallery, Burnaby, B.C.


94. Special Correspondent. "A 'Touch of Magic' in Gallery Showing." Illus. Victoria Times, 25 June 1966, 10. "If you approach Wise's painting without making some effort to inform yourself as to his intention...you will not gain...more than the immediate response aroused by its surface decorative appeal."


98. Uhthoff, Ina D. D. "Devotional Quality Defies Description." Victoria Daily Colonist, 16 June 1966, 48. "Some of it [a devotional quality] may be the result of his study with the refugee Thangka painters of Tibet, with whom he spent some time this spring...."


101. Walker, Kathleen. "A Depleted Art Exhibit." Ottawa Citizen, 4 October 1976, 60. "The primary flaw in this exhibition is the smallness of the works; there isn't a major painting to be had. The show comes via Vancouver and Toronto, and all the larger works have been sold."

103. Watmough, David. "Gallery Triumphs in One-Man Show." Vancouver Sun, 5 April 1965, 20. "These 50-odd works mark a distinctive and worthy debut not only for this artist but for the gallery at its new quarters on Burrard [Street] at Pacific."

104. ---. "About Art." Vancouver Sun, 25 March 1966, 7-A. Watmough cites a letter from Wise in which Wise disclaims the specific influence of Mark Tobey.

105. ---. "Tiny World Shows Wise at His Best." Vancouver Sun, 28 April 1966, 39. "The new exhibition of works by Jack Wise at the New Design Gallery pursues similar idioms to those in his Silent Music show last year...."


OTHER


REPRODUCTIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS


120. ---. "White City [mixed media]." Reproduction. Artforum, 5 (November 1966), 63.


132. ---. "Mandala, 1968 [lithographic print]." Reproduction. Emerging Arts West, 1 (October 1975), 9. This is the first issue of what came to be known as Artswest magazine.


138. ---. "Louis Riel Dead or Alive [triptych; oil on canvas]." Reproduction. Artscanada, 32 (Autumn 1975), 79.


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