



**John Bannister**, a graduate of Lorne Park secondary school exhibits his work at the Kar Gallery in the Colonnade on Bloor St. until Nov. 30. His paintings and sketches range in price from \$50 to \$1,000.

# Artist attracts attention

LPC  
Nov. 19-75  
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By **CONNIE RAE**

The inspiration of the old masters is very evident in the paintings and sketches of John Bannister, a 22-year-old graduate of Lorne Park secondary school, one-time student at the Ontario College of Art, and two-year inhabitant of Spain.

Bannister opened at the Kar Gallery in the Colonnade, 131 Bloor St. West on Sunday. His show which spans a four-year-period of transition, will run until Nov. 30. Bannister sold nearly half his show on opening night.

Bannister had the opportunity to hold a show at the gallery last year, but although he was satisfied with the quality of his work, he felt he was not yet ready to emerge as an artist. He returned to the family villa in Spain and spent another year preparing work for his opening at the gallery. During that time he was his own critic. With every new piece of work, he felt he had become more proficient in yet another aspect of painting.

The influence of his surroundings is obvious in his 40th and final work for the

show. The peaceful, unhurried lifestyle and the indescribable beauty of the mountainous panorama with rocks jutting up from the sea is evident in the portrait of "Lyt", (Light) emerging from the sea, and at peace with her universe.

Anne Proulx of Port Credit, who has launched such artists as Kim Darby, calls Bannister her bright white star on the horizon.

Bannister doesn't exhibit the hurried, frenzied multimedia techniques of many modern artists, but with painstaking simplicity portrays the realism of the past with a cosmic universal symbolism of the present.

"I try to paint something people will understand. Although each person interprets a painting on his own level, the feeling evoked is usually the same," Bannister explains.

Bannister's 'Venus Balance' bears the same serenity as the faces of Leonardo da Vinci and his fair-haired Mother and Child bring images of the Renaissance Madonnas to mind.