



Exhibition by "The Group"

TWENTY years ago a group of artists in Christchurch rented a studio and started a long experiment. The studio has been closed but the experiment still goes on.

Roughly the idea was that they should work together without any kind of control over one another individually or collectively. They used a common studio for economy and conveni-

ence, but each remained entirely independent and free. There was stimulus in working together, but the attempt was never made to found a school or develop a common style. They called themselves The Group, but that meant no more than that they met together to work and joined together to exhibit their work.

Now, after two decades, they have held a retrospective exhibition at which all but two of the 35 past and present

members were represented. Naturally the styles ranged from the academic to the hard to understand, but most of those who attended the exhibition came away feeling that The Group had done something for art in Christchurch at least, and indirectly for the whole Dominion.

Three examples of the work of The Group are reproduced on this page. At the top, "Skye, 1947," painted by Douglas MacDiarmid; bottom left, "Road to Deep Stream," by W. J. Reed; bottom right, "The Red Hat," by A. A. Deans. All three were on display at the Retrospective Exhibition.



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