

Alan McCulloch – Sun News Pictorial March 1961

Review of exhibition at the South Yarra Gallery

“Shannon, painter of the urban scene, achieves an integration of form and concept much superior to anything he has shown previously.

Vermillions and cobalts painted over dark primers to sparkle to the surfaces, black outlines welding figures and buildings into solid arabesques; this describes the work. Not new but stimulating all the same to imaginative people.

But there is more to Shannon than this; the spark that really warms us here is the feeling of oneness between the painter and his subject.

“Harry and His Dreams” for example, could come only from experience lived and understood.

The feeling of sympathy extends from the animate to the inanimate; a stove, a monument or a building in which each brick is recognised as a subtle variant in the total ensemble of bricks.

Shannon permits himself an occasional digression such as his fairytale conception of “The Centre” or the picture “Two Children” in which the over-emphasis on rhythms disrupts the otherwise promising equilibrium of the two heads.”



Harry and His Dreams 1961 oil on canvas