

Eyebrows are raised at a Harrogate show

SCULPTURES FROM JUGOSLAVIA

From our Harrogate staff

THE 20 pieces of sculpture by Miss Olga Jancic, the Yugoslavian sculptor, which were held up by Customs at Harwich and later freed, arrived at Harrogate on Saturday in time for the opening of the Festival of the Visual Arts, and were set up in the Crescent Gardens.

Whether they made the kind of impact on the public which was expected is another matter. They are a miscellaneous assortment—some of them headless torsos and catalogued under such titles as "Forms in Love," "Female Torso," "Pregnant," "Debauch" and "Metamorphosis."

Harrogate's public who toured the outdoor exhibition raised their eyebrows and certainly looked a little puzzled. The wife of a well-known Harrogate artist was even more outspoken. "Disgusting," she told a Yorkshire Post reporter.

' Erotic '

Comment of Mr. Mervyn Levy, the Festival Arts Director, was: "Certainly Miss Jancic's sculptures are erotic, but she is merely reflecting the whole basis of humanity itself. Do not forget that the Communist countries are freer in their attitude to sex. It is understandable therefore that her work to some extent should reflect the society in which she lives."

Miss Jancic was welcomed at the official opening of the Festival on Saturday when it was performed by the Mayor, Councillor L. Roberts, who said that the Corporation were glad to be associated with ABC Television in bringing the Festival to Harrogate. It was hoped it would be the first of many similar festivals in the town and become internationally famous. It was just the sort of thing which Harrogate had been waiting for as a highlight of the season.

Prizewinners, previously announced, received their awards from Mr. Timothy O'Brien, head of Design, ABC Television, and from Mr. Wilfrid Walter, Studio Books Ltd. Others present were Mr. Mervyn Levy and Councillor G. Holroyd (Deputy Mayor), who proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor and the donors of the prizes.

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Leeds.

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