CUSTOMS BLOW TO HARROGATE FESTIVAL

ONE of Yugoslavia's top sculptresses, dark-haired attractive Miss Olga Jancic, is due to display 20 of her finest pieces of work at the Harrogate Festival of Visual Arts, which opens on Saturday.

Today, however, Miss Jancic, who has shown examples of her handiwork in many parts of Europe, was wondering whether British customs were going to put the damper on her show at Harrogate.

She told me: "Customs officers at Harwich have impounded my pieces. My exhibits have travelled all the way across Europe only to be stopped as they came into this country. How can I get them here in time?"

GOODWILL GESTURE

Mr. Mervyn Levy, the painter, who is the Festival Art Director, told me: "Why should there be all this wrangling when a sculptress wants to show her work in another country? Surely a goodwill gesture could be made by the authorities for the sake of cultural relations between countries."

Mr. Levy said he understood that the Customs had pointed out that articles could not be admitted duty free if they were to be shown at a profit-making exhibition.

The emphasis at Harrogate was on culture, and another factor to consider was that exhibtions of this nature seldom made a substantial profit, if one at all. They fell into the category of cultural activities.

VERY GALLING

He concluded: "It is very galling to think Miss Jancic's sculptures have passed through the red tape of several countries and are then taken into custody as soon as they reach Britain."