

Images of a living sculpture

British modern artist, sculptor, film maker and writer Bruce McLean has brought a colourful exhibition to the Island that has been inspired by his garden in Menorca

By Gill Kay



This is the first time that artist Bruce McLean has exhibited in the island (021 32535) Picture: ROB CURRIE

AN exhibition of work by British modern artist Bruce McLean opened at the CCA Galleries International earlier this week - the first time the artist has exhibited in the Island.

Although the award-winning artist is best known as a sculptor, film maker and writer, his exhibition, entitled *Son Caragol*, features a collection of paintings, working drawings, monoprints and edition prints, all inspired by his garden in Es Migjorn Gran, Menorca, where he spends part of the year.

'I've kept all the work basically to flowers and vegetation. I do other things as well, but I thought it would be good to make the show of one theme. Most of the inspiration for the work came from my garden in Menorca.

'It's my wife Rosie's garden, really -

she makes this kind of living sculpture, and I just sat watching her do it over the years and thought I might make some paintings of that,' Bruce explained.

'So I started making some drawings and paintings and prints in a response to her work.

'She doesn't see it as art, or sculpture - she sees it as a garden. There's not much colour in the garden, but it's really green and it looks good.

'It's always changing with the light coming through it and the odd bit of colour, so I try and do something about that by making these paintings.'

The garden theme is not new to the artist, as he won the John Moores Prize in 1985 for his painting *Oriental Garden, Kyoto* - a large-scale work that was

almost the same size as an actual Japanese garden.

Bruce added that this was the first time he had put together a show of only prints and paintings, as opposed to a mixed collection of his work.

The exhibition consists of around six very large scale paintings and ten smaller sized works, plus a number of monoprints and quite a large selection of drawings.

The artist is pleased to bring his work to Jersey for the first time and said: 'Jersey is a unique place to exhibit, and I love the space - it lends itself to a rich, vibrant show, highlighting my use of collage, painting, sculpture and print.'

• *Son Caragol* continues until 30 April.



Left: Tall Dutch Tulips (021 32540)

Right: A study in vegetation (021 32541)

Below: Tree shadows (021 32543)

