

TEL AVIV ART NOTES

Holzman, Steinhardt and Sternschuss at the Tel Aviv Museum.

Three of the most prominent artists of the country are now showing their work at the Tel Aviv Museum and providing the public with a stimulating exhibition, particularly because of the contrast it affords between the mature and almost "tragic" woodcuts of Jacob Steinhardt and the young, vigorous and "easy" watercolours of Shimon Holzman. The third artist, Moshe Sternschuss, is the sculpture teacher at the Labour Federation Studio, and his work is a familiar feature of nearly all Tel Aviv exhibitions.

It is some time since Steinhardt's black-and-whites have been seen in Tel Aviv. Those now shown are mostly woodcuts of the Old City of Jerusalem, and are notable for their dramatic use of sharply opposed masses of black and white. The twisting and sombre by-ways of the old Jerusalem find a revelation in his work and the mysticism which is an individual feature of his art imbue these studies with a haunt-

ing quality. Also included are some interesting illustrations for some poems by T. Lerner and a book by Agnon.

The watercolours of Holzman lead us to a completely different world. As usual this painter's colours are light and cheerful and there is an infectious gaiety and spontaneity about his work. All landscapes, including several sketches of Zichron Yaacov and the Yarkon — which last Holzman has made peculiarly his own — are rendered with a vigour which makes them attractive, and this is added to by the feeling that the artist's work always gives: that he has real potentialities and that some time or other he is going to make an important contribution to Palestinian painting.

There is little new comment to make on the Sternschuss sculpture, several pieces of which have been shown before. He continues to produce a good likeness, refrains from trying to startle or to shock, and gives a certain pleasure by the competent and careful handling of his medium. S.W.