

Romare Bearden Abstract To Hang In Art Institute

When the Chicago Art Institute presents the 53th Annual American Exhibition in its galleries at Michigan ave. and Adams st., Nov. 6 through Jan. 11, one of the most talked of paintings in the exhibit, which will be devoted to abstract and surrealist art, may be "The Soul Never Dwells in a Dry Place," an oil by Romare Bearden.

Already, it has attracted much attention, and was praised by Edward Jewell, New York Times art critic along with much of Bearden's other work when he gave a show at the Koontz galleries, last March.

The Art Institute show will be the first comprehensive abstract exhibit assembled by any museum. Associate Curators Frederick A. Sweet and Katharine Kuh have asked that 230 paintings and 26 sculptures by known as well as unknown artists, be exhibited. Invitations were extended after the curators had traveled more than 24,000 miles, and visited 76 U.S. cities.

No Museum Exhibits

All of the work has never been shown in major museum shows, and much of it has never been exhibited publicly. A catalog pub-

lished by the museum for the show, will be devoted entirely to American abstract and surrealist artists. Of the 210 artists represented, ranging in age from 20 to 76 years, 42 are women.

Bearden is one of the better-known artists among the exhibi-

tors. A 35-year-old native of Charlotte, N. C., who has lived in New York for years, he is mentioned in Dr. Alan Locke's "The Negro in Art." He has done a series of illustrations for Fortune magazine, and is listed among the best abstract illustrators in the country.

According to Jewell, Bearden's work shows great strength, with a good sense of color and design. He began as a semi-realist, but is primarily an abstract artist, preferring drinking and hunting themes.

He is the son of Bessie Bearden, a respected figure in Harlem politics for many years.