Two New Art Exhibits to Open at the Kennedy Union Art Gallery and Lounge

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DAYTON, Ohio, March 26, 1968 --- Two new art exhibits will open at the Kennedy Union Art Gallery and Lounge on March 31 and run through April 26. In the Art Gallery, the work of Dayton artist Robert B. Sprague will be displayed and the Lounge will exhibit the paintings of Gifford C. Loomer.

"The Coral Reef" series, a collection of fifteen encaustic paintings, are the works of Gifford Loomer which will be on exhibit. Exotic fish and other marine life from the coral reef make up the subject matter of this painting series. Burlap, balsa wood, gesso and other materials are used to build out from the flat plane. Dr. Loomer's interest in water life was fostered from his childhood on the lakes of Wisconsin and from 28 months spent with the Marines in the Pacific during World War II.

Dr. Loomer is a professor of art at Western Illinois University, where he served for eight years as Head of the Art Department. He has acted as instructor or tour director for five foreign art tours to Mexico and Europe and took a sabbatical leave in 1961 to study Mexican Arts and Crafts. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin.

The Kennedy Union and the Technical Institute will co-sponsor the painting exhibition by native Daytonian Robert Sprague. Mr. Sprague is the founder of the Sprague Art School in St. Petersburg, Florida, and was a member of the Art faculty of St. Petersburg Junior College. He was the recipient of many painting and drawing awards, including four top Florida painting prizes and has had 37 one-man shows. Mr. Sprague has studied at Antioch College, the Dayton Art Institute, Roerich Museum School and the University of Louisville.

Mr. Sprague will be the guest at a reception in the Kennedy Union Art Gallery on March 31 from 3-5 p.m. to mark the opening of his show.