



Artist Claus Bastian explaining one of his paintings to Miss Marilyn Chapnick, of Schober's Restaurant, in the restaurant's Gallery. A collection of his works is currently on display there.

## ON VIEW AT SCHOBES

# Claus Bastian Paintings Here Blend Color With Human Touch

German artist Claus Bastian was affected so greatly by the brutalities and pathos in life, that some 12 years ago he began painting as a means of expressing his sentiments.

Bastian was in town recently for the opening of his one-man show at Schober's Restaurant, 6925 S. Lindbergh Blvd. He now wears two hats as he is also a lawyer in his native Munich, having been educated at the Sorbonne in Paris and at the University of Munich.

Speaking English in a deliberate manner and with the aid of his long-time friend from Columbia, Ill., Everett Schoening, who was with the American Consulate in Munich during the war, Bastian told of the path which has led to his being recognized as one of Europe's finest painters today.

Bastian returned to Munich in 1933 from his studies at the Sorbonne to a city besieged with the beginnings of a fanatic movement. Voicing disapproval with what he saw, the non-Jewish Bastian was one of the first native Germans confined to the Dachau concentration camp. He was imprisoned for six months.

"I can't relate the appropriate words to describe life in the camp," Bastian said. "It was a world of horror which one's

worst nightmare couldn't even picture."

The 57-year-old Bastian said his fellow Germans felt the Nazi uprising would only last about six months. "If the world had really risen, the Nazis could have been stopped," he said. "But, during the depression, the rest of the world was concerned about their own troubles, not realizing what was happening in Germany."

Bastian was so opposed to the Nazis after his release from Dachau, that he had a doctor friend tell the Nazis that he was, for health reasons, unfit to fight. For a short period of time, Bastian went to live in the mountains.

Eventually Bastian received his doctorate in law from the University of Munich. He still practices and is the legal advisor to the royal family of Bavaria.

A very compassionate man, Bastian says "we are undergoing today similar passions and troubles as existed in Christ's time. He feels that the late President John F. Kennedy and Pope John XXIII were probably the greatest men in the century. With a tear in his eye he spoke of Kennedy as "a rich man who spoke for the common man." To Bastian, "The world started with Kennedys."

Bastian's paintings are influenced by the French Impressionist School. Their lively colors and baroque qualities are never without the human element. His repertoire is varied, ranging from landscapes and figure studies to his religious story cycle of the Passion.

Married and the father of five children, Bastian's works will be on exhibit in the restaurant's Gallery through Saturday, July 11.