

Ceramics Express Artistic Ideas and Emotions

ONE OF THE most immediately interesting of art shows in Johannesburg during the past week has been Barbara Greig's one-man exhibition of her ceramics in the Gallery 101.

This exhibition no doubt came as a surprise to the many people who have always considered ceramics in terms of bowls and pots, as objects of utility, in other words.

But that this medium, older than paint and reaching back to beyond history, could be used as a vehicle for the expression of artistic ideas and emotions, for the expression of the beautiful in itself, was an exciting discovery for the many who saw her first one-man show in Johannesburg.

There were more than 30 ceramic panels on the show, each one quite satisfactory as a free-hanging piece. Barbara Greig herself, however, feels that the ideal means of display would be their incorporation into the wall surface itself, in the manner of a frieze.

with a rough-textured wall, proved her ideas on the application of her medium triumphantly right.

Barbara Greig has opened new horizons for this ancient craft. Her use of textures alone gives panels — as a new means of artistic expression—great value. When her wide range of texture techniques is contrasted with the brilliance of her glaze colours, often stained glass-like, sometimes glittering like pools of frozen colour or, again, with the soft pastels of a Morandi still life, it will be seen why she can lay valid claim to having lifted ceramics from the plane of a mere craft to the level of an art form.

RECOGNITION AS ART

Recognition for her use of this medium as an art form came last year when



Barbara Greig's Ceramic Frieze.

MURAL FOR OCEANARIUM

She had the ideal opportunity of carrying her belief into practice last year when she was commissioned to execute a mural in ceramics for the newly-opened Oceanarium, in Port Elizabeth. This mural, 22 ft. long and 9 ft. high, with its glittering (and often amusing) semi-abstract fish subjects contrasting

one of her panels was selected to be shown on the Festival Quadriennale Exhibition of South African art.

She has exhibited in various South African centres, and is now living in Pretoria, although she intends — because of the favourable artistic climate there—moving to Johannesburg in the future.