

£2,000 art on show at Red House

A GROUP of artists, musicians and craftsmen, the Companions of Music and the Arts, formed two years ago and based on the Red House Museum, have produced their second miniature festival of design and craftsmanship.

Their exhibition, which opened on Monday for a fortnight, is a much larger version of the first one two years ago. Among the items exhibited are paintings, ceramics, stained glass, wood carving and pieces described as "constructions".

All told, there are more than 130 items on display by a dozen craftsmen and artists whose work comes under the general heading of an art form.

In their programme, the CMA offer their collection "in the hope of demonstrating that art is not a function definable by academic usage or commercial classification, but the manifestation of an attitude of mind and quality of purpose, taking hold of an infinite variety of problems".

Mr. David Ballantyne, one of the main organisers of the festival and founder of the CMA, fills a large section of the catalogue with the list of ceramics he exhibits, from cruets to coffee sets, candlesticks to vases.

Three painters exhibit in the show. They are David Andrew, who studied at the Slade School and teaches part time at Portsmouth and Bournemouth Colleges; Fred Sinkinson, who lectures in art at a teacher training college, and Elizabeth Nolan.

Mr. Sinkinson, who recently held a one-man show at Bristol, held a similar one at the Red House last year under the auspices of the CMA.

Constructions are by Peter Hand, who gained experience in the motor body and film industries before joining the staff of Bournemouth College of Art, and David Lewis, a young student.

Artists working in textiles are represented by Ann Sutton, who exhibits woven wall hangings, and there are examples of letter cutting in slate by John Andrew, a graphic designer specialising in lettering,

who was apprenticed to a carver before entering the Royal College of Art and is now assistant to Dorset letter designer Reynolds Stone.

Sculpture, in wood and stone, is shown by Fred Watson and Jack Wright. Mr. Watson not long ago completed a degree course in fine art at King's College, Newcastle, specialising in sculpture, whereas Mr. Wright, an associate of Mr. Ballantyne in preparing the festival, practises both as a painter and a woodcarver in spite of heavy teaching duties.

STAINED GLASS

Anthony Holloway, who first studied in Bournemouth and now earns his living in various design fields, brought stained glass to the exhibition.

By far the most expensive items in the exhibition are the furniture by Edward Barnsley, whose workshop is at Petersfield. He combines infinite attention to detail with sensitive use of many beautiful woods to yield furniture of a kind any producer might envy. His china cabinet in English walnut, priced at £291 16s., is the highest priced in the exhibition.

Total value of those items which are for sale — and that's most of the exhibition — is almost £2,000. The CMA takes commission on all sales during the exhibition, and if costs of producing the exhibition are covered, any surplus will go towards a fund to enable the CMA to present in alternate seasons a miniature festival of chamber music in the Red House, which has excellent acoustics.

During the festival this evening, Maurice Hardy and his wife, Margaret, will give a 'cello and violin recital to a small audience with a programme of solos and duos.