

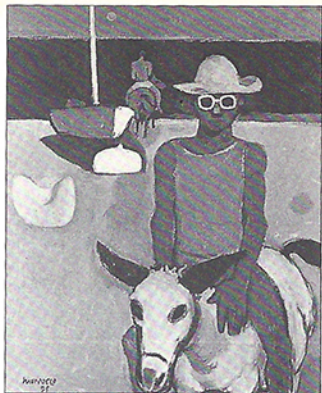
"Galleries" - March 1995 **alberto morrocco**

Victoria Keller

In 1993 Dundee Art Gallery mounted a major retrospective exhibition of Alberto Morrocco's work which toured Scotland, but never made its way further south than Edinburgh. However, a number of the works borrowed for the show were from collections in the south of England, as Morrocco has been exhibiting and selling his work in London since the mid-1960s. An exhibitor with the **Thackeray Gallery** since 1977, Morrocco has had regular one-man shows there since 1980, the last being in 1992. The Thackeray Gallery is welcoming him back with an exhibition of new paintings which opens on March 22nd and runs until April 12th.

For all the bold colour of Morrocco's painting, fine draughtsmanship has underpinned his work since his student days in Aberdeen. All his

well-known motifs – the still-lives, the wistful harlequins, the comfortable rounded shapes of Italian women leaning on their window ledges, the family groups by the seaside – which have recurred in his work since the 1950s, began life as meticulous sketches. As he began truly to exult in Mediterranean colour in the 1960s, these motifs gradually took on an unrealistic, larger-than-life aspect. Colour became more than just a way to illustrate an object – the reds and pinks fought to dominate a still-life, and the powerful blues of sea and sky battled above the searing colours of the sand. Morrocco's paintings have come to be more about the colour used than the subject matter described. This is the basis of much abstract art, but Morrocco would never consider such a



Alberto Morrocco 'Donkey & Rider'
oil on canvas. Photo: Spanphoto
Thackeray Gallery

path. He is too attached to the immediacy and vibrancy of what he sees around him.

The artist continues in this exuberant vein today. Morrocco's paintings describe his enormous joy in life – what better way to celebrate the beginning of Spring? ●