

# Ambition Realized

By Walter Eldot

Don Fink has achieved the ambition of many painters: He has time to paint, has a studio in Paris and makes a living from his craft.

Home in Duluth last week for a visit, Fink, 36, could point to another impressive achieve-

ment: The first American exhibition of his paintings in New York's prominent Saldenberg gallery. (He'll be followed there this week by Picasso.)

Fink's paintings are abstractions. Yet to him they are not entirely non-objective.

"Communication depends largely on the experience of the viewer," he explains. "My paintings

are not related to figurative art but they're obviously related to things that are real to me."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Finkelstein, he has been painting professionally since he moved to Paris seven years ago. He is a graduate of Duluth Central high school and studied after the war at Walker Art Institute, Minneapolis.

It takes time to build a reputation as a painter, yet Fink feels that he has been making headway all along. Though price is not necessarily a valid yardstick for art, his paintings now sell for from \$200 to \$1,500 each, depending on size, he says.

He sells quite a few of them nowadays—44 last year, he says, and he is also under contract to a gallery which sells for him.

Another yardstick of his work, he feels, is the fact that his paintings are being accepted and requested by the better galleries throughout Europe.

One of his "big breaks" came when Edith Halpert of New York's Downtown Gallery inspected and praised his work in Paris and subsequently bought 18 of his paintings, he relates.

But even before then Fink began to come to notice, as with his exhibit in Paris' Gallery Craven in 1954, and other shows that followed in the Paris art salons, in Germany, then his one-man show in London two years ago.

Word-of-mouth from "impor-

# Duluthian Scores Success While Painting in Paris

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tant collectors" who've bought his paintings has also helped him a great deal, he says.

The small house he bought in Paris when he first moved there was devoid of most modern conveniences. The improvements made since reflect on his contention that "I've been living on art very well for five years."

Still, Fink makes no pretense about his ability. For instance, he insists that he still considers himself a young painter, that he's no portrait or realist painter and has never tried his hand at teaching.

He prefers to live in Paris, because he finds life there more conducive to his work and because there he can enjoy the friendship of numerous other painters.

He met his wife on the ship to Europe. They have two daughters now, with whom he daily

spending 8 to 10 hours in his private upstairs studio.



Duluthian Don Fink in his Paris studio.

**BIOGRAPHY**

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Duluth: Artists. Fink, Don

# Dribbling Pays Off

D.M.T. Sept. 12 '54

By Earl Finberg

"From the plains of Minnesota" the brochure read, comes an artist who does not see "with the eyes of his grandfather."

The painter whose work was being exhibited in Paris' Galerie Craven is Don Fink, who has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Finkelstein, 1132 East Third street, on the "plains" of Duluth.

Modernist Fink, who refers to his technique as "dribbling," is an avant garde painter, concerned with producing pictorial references to "inner reactions created by color, the movement of line, and emotional experience."

He reports that American painters are doing well in Paris, are in the leading ranks of ex-

treme modernism. As his exhibition catalog pointed out, he feels that modern man should not view the world with "the eye of his grandfather," but in a manner consistent with the here and now.

Fink exhibited in Italy as well as in France, during his two-and-a-half-year stay abroad. Critics agree that the young man is one of the better practitioners of the emotive "warm abstractionist" school—as contrasted with the geometrizing "cold abstractionists."

In the process of growth, Fink says he has abandoned the free-line dribble, now is painting with a controlled line over areas of freely applied color.

He reports that "Duluthians are more receptive to art news" than they were when he left here

more than two years ago. Fink had an exhibition in Tweed gallery shortly before leaving the country. Nothing was sold from the show, but only a little later, he had a New York exhibit which netted him \$700 in sales, and was the means for his going abroad.

In Europe he continued to sell paintings regularly.

Fink married a New York girl, Yvonne Cohen, whom he met in Paris, and they have a daughter, Michele, five and a half months old. The Finks are bound for New York now, intend to return to France to live.

"We have become part of the neighborhood in Paris," Mrs. Fink said. "Even the French people have accepted us—since Michele arrived."



**DON FINK**  
Home from Paris



Abstract Dribble by artist Don Fink of Duluth was produced in French newspaper.

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