

# Colborne art gallery features work of renowned sculptor

Iranian-born international sculptor Reza Bassiri is the featured artist in the current Colborne Art Gallery Show which opened last Saturday.

In what must be considered a coup, the gallery has brought 16 pieces of Mr. Bassiri's work to its King Street East gallery. These include numerous marble free-form sculptures plus works in granite, soapstone and one in cherry wood.

Mr. Bassiri was born in Tehran, Iran 63 years ago and grew up in that country during the liberalized period when it was under the rule of the Shah. He travelled widely when he was young. Both Mr. Bassiri and his wife, Mahin are highly educated, having grown up in an era when the government paid for higher education. He left the country in the early-1970s to study ceramics in California at UCLA and other colleges. He went on from there to Italy where he learned the techniques of stone sculpture.

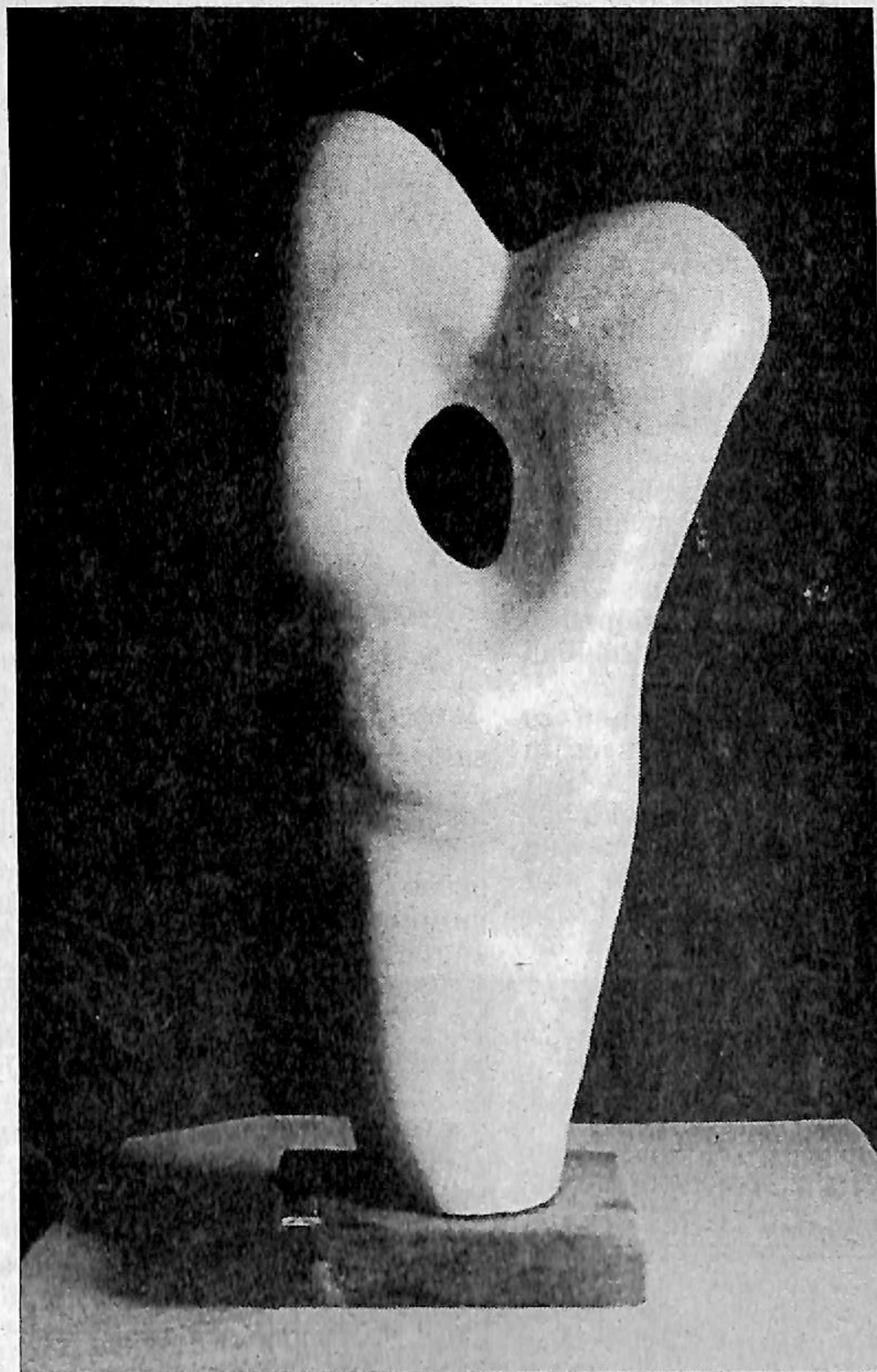
He returned to Iran for awhile. In 1977 he saw his works exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in Tehran. They now form part of the museum's public collection, and the collection of the Reza Abase Museum.

In the early-'80s he and his family were off again, headed for the U.S.A. They stopped in Canada. And his daughter Mandana says they loved the culture and the people of this country so much they stayed. Shortly after they settled they had their third child, Pantea. She joined Mandana and her brother Romean who is now 33.

Mr. Bassiri is now teaching in California, where Mandana says the people thirst for art. She remained in Canada where she recently graduated from the Political Sciences and Human Resources program at the University of Waterloo. She was on hand at the

opening of her father's Colborne show last week.

She describes her father as a sculptor who works in all kinds of media. He paints and works in ceramics, but is most famous for his stone work.



The works of international Canadian sculptor Reza Bassiri are on display at the Colborne Art Gallery until September 12.

form, the sculptures of Reza Bassiri invite the viewers to participate in a visual and tactile experience."

He has had shows everywhere, from mall parking lots to galleries in New York, Los Angeles, Italy and France. His work is widely collected in North America and abroad.

The majority of his work is in Toronto.

The Reza Bassiri show closes on September 12. The Colborne Art Gallery is open Thursday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

It is clear from his work on display in Colborne that he loves curves. They are plainly evident in many of his pieces. Mandana says he likes to take the shape that the stone gives, not try to make it into something of his. He goes until the stone stops. He loves the challenge of the material.

"My aim with sculpting," he states, "is representing the vitality and feelings which I find within the original form, rather than reproducing it. Showing a moving object is not my ambition, but to explore the qualities of that move is."

Most of his work is marble. It's one of the hardest materials to work with, but it produces the smoothest finish and lasts the longest.

He says, "While carving, my mind and energy go into that block of stone. Transformation will occur, I will see how form is growing from it and gradually it comes to life."

His promotional literature states that his work is, "characterized by a purity and simplicity of



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Cramahe actor Diane Fabian closed out Arsenic and Old lace last week. She is now in rehearsal for Anne of Green Gables.

## Cramahe actor rehearsing for next show

Fresh off a very successful major role as Aunt Abby in Arsenic and Old Lace, Cramahe professional actor, Diane Fabian is now in rehearsal for the final show of the summer season at Stirling Theatre.

From August 18 to September 4 the theatre in Stirling, ON will run Anne of Green Gables. Ms. Fabian will

reprise the role of Rachel Lynde in that production.

Curtain rises on Anne of Green Gable performances at 7:30 p.m.

Matinees sold out early last season. It is recommended that theatre-goers planning to attend the matinees purchase their tickets early.

The box office number is 1-877-312-1162.