

# Paintings by Batuz

## A First for Everson

By NEVART APIKIAN

**B**ATUZ'S WORKS are like nothing ever before exhibited at the Everson Museum of Art.

These massive creations, sometimes as large as 6 by 8 feet, are in Gallery A on the upper level of the museum. The largest is in shades of blue, while others are in off-white, yellow or red.

But they are painted on paper, not canvas.

"I am painting with paper," said the internationally known artist by telephone from his home in Greens Farms, Conn. "The cotton pulp is in reality wet paper, and I paint directly with the pulp."

Until about two years ago, Batuz worked with oil paints and acrylics on canvas.

His new period goes even farther from realism.

Dieter Ronte, director of the Museum of Modern Art in Vienna, contributed a chapter to a book of 85 color plates which has been assembled in conjunction with this exhibition. He wrote: "Artists develop new languages in order to state new truths and provide new insights, since by definition the existing language is inadequate."

A Hungarian by birth, Batuz learned his art through living.

"I am competely self-taught," he said. "Art cannot be learned in universities. I don't think that Hemingway went to Yale and asked, 'How can I be a writer?'"

"But I went through a lot of things in my life in World War II refugee camps. I had a lot of life experiences, met lots of people and lived in many countries. From central Europe, I went to South America, a completely different environment, and then came here, to the United States."

Batuz, a painter for 32 years, started when he was 16 at the time he arrived in Argentina.

He said the influence of painters is not restricted to art.

"Mondrian influenced architecture and a way of living. He was a great social influence.

"When someone says to me, 'Why

don't you explain to me what is modern art?' I reply, 'You are living in an apartment building that is a Mondrian. Abstract art is in reality part of our culture.'"

Batuz's present exhibition is having its first showing at the Everson Museum. It will travel to the Kunsthalle in



BATUZ

Nuremberg, West Germany, and the Museum Moderner Kunst in Vienna, Austria, and then recross the ocean to be shown at the Indianapolis Museum of Art in September 1982.

Batuz said he plans to travel to Europe to aid in organizing the show with Ronte, who is doing that work there. However, he will not go on to Japan and Australia, where his works also will be shown.

Batuz has a farm and studio in Connecticut where he lives with his wife and four children.

P-55/29/80