

The Sunday Spotlight: a Guest Column

Student Art: 'A High Level'

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Unusual is the term best used to characterize the current 24th annual Student Art Show at the Memorial Union galleries. A competent jury consisting of Fred Berman, instructor at the Layton Art School, Milwaukee; Michael Higgins, artist from Chicago, and Lester Schwartz, artist in residence at Ripon college, selected some 60 per cent of the work submitted in them for showing. The result is that, in point of numbers, this is the largest student show to be presented to the public. However, in spite of this, it is also one of the best of these annuals. This collection, for the most part, represents a year of probing, selection, evaluation, and presentation on the part of these young people on a level that is rarely seen in an exhibition of this type.

In commenting on the show, the jury stated that:

"The show as a whole is very good... Most of the work reflects a job well done by the faculty. Paintings show a wide variety of approaches, media, and individual experimentation... Jewelry reflects technical sureness.... We would like to comment especially on the pottery in general; the quality and the play of the stoneware were quite beautiful. Graphics are of high quality. The variety of techniques shows experimentation with the various media."

An unprecedented 31 awards and 14 honorable mentions were awarded—an action which more than emphasized these observations.

Rober Burkett, Racine, whose oil painting, "Man in Repose", won the Meuer Art Co. award, and whose color lithograph, "I Only Know What I Read in the Papers", won the Class of 1930 award, is represented by a third work, "Edge of Town", a very small casein painting. To this observer it is one of the best things in the show. The painting has a gem-like quality displaying a love for detail which is enhanced within a framework of fine draftsmanship, well integrated color, and unobtrusive but delicate textural weavings.

Harold Krause, Wausau, winner of the Co-op Purchase award with his water color, "Five Dancers", presents a very excellent work in this medium. The subject matter becomes secondary as the observer is drawn surely to the wonderful surface quality and powerful, simple design of it.

Art metal and commercial design: Ken Eichenbaum, "Book Jacket"; William Bruske, "Crucifixion"; Ernie Mahike, "Jewelry".

Ceramics: Charlotte Aronson, "Yellow Stoneware Bowl"; Harry Horning, "Stoneware Bottle"; Shirley Marvin, "Decanter No. 15".

"Group", which won the H. S. Manchester award, is a harmony of greens and blue-greens which are set off quite handsomely against cool pink and cool red accents. The brush striking, while quite free, is well ordered within the architectural aspects of the rectangle he is working with.

One of the works that was seemingly overlooked by the prize jury is the encaustic painting "Expectation," by Dennis Byng, Rice Lake. In this painting, Byng has spread his wax pigments over a burlap support in such a way as to create interesting and provocative patterns of texture. Interesting also, is the lithograph "Three Sisters," in which Byng supports his freely drawn design with liberal acid treatments over the surface to present a richly textured print.

Philip Berg, Madison, with her prize-winning color linoleum cut, "Sunflowers," has one of the more charming pieces in the show. It is a beautifully designed work which integrates subject matter, color, and attitude quite successfully.

The work of Fuller Griffith in the graphic arts continues in its excellence. The work of this young artist, who has already made a dent into the hard armor of the professional print show over the last year, is superb in its workmanship and good taste.

Barbara M. Hall, Milwaukee, with a pair of hand-some linoleum cuts, is another high spot in the show. Her linoleum cut, "Box Hockey", winner of the Class of 1930 purchase award, is a well designed work printed in a beautiful end brown.

Experimental use of wood engraving tools by George Schansberg in a pair of striking linoleum cuts affords a new note in the presentation of this medium.

Many more works could be singled out in this necessarily limited discussion. Others of note in the various classifications are:

Oil, tempera, and casein: Patricia Molm, "Timpani and Stands"; Jo Vanterpool, "Skid Row"; Jack Gay, "Near Galena"; William Handel, "Awake, We Descend the Far Side of Dreams"; May Buratti, "La Preghiera".

Watercolor and mixed techniques: Jeanne Jacobson, "Eddie"; Ardis Thivedt, "Triumph and the Unknown"; Edith Liebling, "A Young Man of Considerable Introspect"; Donna Grooms, "Jungle Garden".

Graphics: Mary Demeter, "Rosokolniki"; Cynthia Mount, "3d Ward Yards"; June Behnke, "Woodcut"; William Bruske, "Frustration"; Dick Grooms, "Fish"; George Ronshold, "Sales Resistance"; James Wachollek, "Yugle".

Sculpture: William Hopkins, "Toucan"; Joel Salter, "Zork"; M. Lee Smith, "Lines of Thought"; Thomas Ruid, "Television".

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Typewriter Helps Cure Victim of Paralysis

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