

RAFT

CONTACTS

Nov.- Dec.
1970

EXHIBITIONS THROUGHOUT B.C. IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

(In order of opening date)

RELIGIOUS ART FORMS Biennial Month of Nov. Summerland Anglican Church

POLSON'S STUFF (Sculpture) Handcraft House, 110 W. Esplanade, N.V.

Opens Nov. 9 to 21. Also pottery & handicrafts for Xmas. Closed Sun & Mon.

POTTERY by John and Dawn Jones of Brackendale Until Nov. 30th

The B.C. Tourist Information Office, 652 Burrard, Van., is featuring a beautiful window display by John Knox of these potters' works. After Dec. 1st at Pandora's Box.

MACRAE Whatcom Museum of Hist. & Art, Bellingham, Wash. Until Dec. 1st
121 Prospect, Hours Tues.-Sat. 12 - 6, Sun. 1 - 5.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SHOW H & S Chavas Gallery Opens Nov. 15th

Hangings, batik, ceramics, paintings, incl. works by Charlotte Kennedy, Jean Fahmi, Sue Arundel, Macintosh, many others.
2105 W. 38th Ave., Van. 263-4241 Tues. - Sat. 11 - 5.

B.C. POTTERS' GUILD HYCROFT SALE Nov. 20th 6 - 10, Nov. 21st 10 - 6.
1489 MacRae, Vancouver

SCULPTURED FORMS by Pangnark, Eskimo Opens Nov. 15th to Dec. 15th.

Vancouver Art Gallery, 1145 W. Georgia, Van.
Works in stone, bone, antler. From the Nat. Museum of Man

GROUP SHOW OF POTTERY Nov. 27, 28, 29 Okanagan Mission
Walter Dexter, Frances Hatfield, Des Loane, Bob Kingsmill
Frank Foll, Mary Turk

SHOWCASE OF CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS Dec. 1 - 15, Upstairs Little Gallery
Vancouver Art Gallery, 1145 W. Georgia. Invitational show sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary. Batik, appliqué, jewelry, ceramics, etc.

POTTERY, HANGINGS AND RUGS Vernon Art Gallery Dec. 3 - 5
Pottery by Frances Hatfield, hangings by Miss I. Juhl

JEWELLERY by Chris Zagani, FABRIC DESIGN by Volker Goulnik
CAC Office, 315 W. Cordova. Opens Nov. 22 for 2 weeks.

Weekdays 9 - 4:30. 683-4358

The craft division of the Community Arts Council will be presenting mini shows of local craftsmen from time to time in the Council offices at 315 W. Cordova. The idea is to bring the work of new exciting craftsmen to view.

Mr. Zagani took his training at Carnegie Tech. in Pittsburgh and later apprenticed to Ronald McNeish there. He works mainly in gold, some silver and will have some gorgeous show pieces on display. Chris is just opening his own shop and will do custom work from there.

Mr. Goulnik took many years of training in textiles in Germany and Finland and this time will have silkscreened fabrics which he makes up into lovely hooded full-length hostess gowns, shirts and pant tops. Come and meet the two at the C.A.C. office on Nov. 22nd from 2 - 5 p.m.

N.B. If your show didn't make this newsletter, it is because we didn't know of it. Next issue will be early January. Deadline Jan. 4th.
Publication date depends on urgency of events at that time. Send show notices to Mrs. Peggy Schofield, 5761 Olympic St., Vancouver 13.
Those organizations wishing to attract tourists visiting Vancouver might send (by the 10th of the previous month) notices of high quality shows to MacLean's Leisure Guide, 1008 Hornby St., Vancouver 1. The calendar of events put out by the Visitors and Convention Bureau has a deadline of 3 days before the first of the month. Send notices to Mr. Peter Mack, Advertising Sales, Vancouver Visitors and Convention Bureau, 650 Burrard, Vancouver 1. There is also a seasonal calendar of events put out by the B.C. Government covering all of B.C. all year long. Write to: Mrs. Long, Travel Bureau, 1090 Wharf Street, Victoria.

CRAFTSMEN not belonging to a major craft guild and not now receiving this newsletter by mail should register their interest by sending their names and addresses to: Mrs. Dierdre Spencer, 4710 Highland Blvd., N. Vancouver. Organizations and schools should state how many copies are needed.

CRAFT STANDARDS IN THE PROVINCE OF B.C.

Carolyn M. Nicholson

Mrs. Nicholson is former curator of the Burnaby Art Gallery

The number of practicing craftsmen and craft hobbyists in British Columbia has increased tremendously in recent years. Unfortunately the feeling for and understanding of the meaning of high standards in the craft arts has perhaps suffered.

In order for full achievement to be reached, the artist-craftsman must be inspired. He must be encouraged to work towards higher standards both technically and imaginatively. Technical proficiency, innovation and imaginative good design must happen together. Any one without the others will produce a dull or inferior object.

It is desirable to 'educate' both the artist and the public so that the fullest appreciation of the potentialities of the craft media may be gained. Therefore, it is essential that the viewer, the hobbyist and even the highly skilled craftsman (amateur or professional) be given the chance to view the highest quality works.

There exists the very real danger that work in craft ~~fairs~~ and hand-craft outlets may be passed off on the casual viewer or uninitiated eye as satisfactory or even good purely because it can be described as functional or because it is "rustic". Both these characteristics can be good, but the practicing artist must be aware of dangers that can exist where there is too much "pioneer charm".

Perhaps a beginning for guidance towards high quality and standards for both the craftsman and his audience can be had through a carefully balanced program of showcases, exhibitions and demonstrations. Handcraft fairs which have enjoyed a vogue for several years are fine and fun, but must not be the only yardstick of comparison. To these should be added a balanced combination of invitational, one man and juried shows of merit. They should include only the best work of artists who have mastered their craft, and the juried show must have highly qualified jurors in order to make it a valid expression.

Steps presently being taken in B.C. in these directions suggest that both artist and layman may in future experience more chances to expand their knowledge, appreciation and innate feeling for high quality craftsmanship in the hand arts.

REPORTS FROM "OBJECTS U.S.A.", held recently in Seattle and seen by many craftsmen in B.C., since it contained representative work by some of the finest craftsmen in the United States.

IMPRESSIONS OF CERAMICS by Donna MacLaren, potter.

Here was an opportunity to see the works of great American potters - Marguerite and Franz Wildenhain, Carlton Ball, Maija Grotell, Karen Karnes, Danell Rhodes, Bob Turner, Paul Soldner, Peter Voulkos. The pots seemed representative of the craftsmen's particular styles - Byron Temple's salt-glazed storage jars, Ruth Duckworth's sculptured goblets, Maria and Popovoi's black terra cotta plate, Herbert Sander's crystalline glazed bottle, John Glick's teapot, Toshiko Takaezu's subtly glazed plates and Don Reitz' salt-glazed sculpture pot. Not all the outstanding American potters were represented. Where were pieces by Jim and Nan McKinnell, Ruth McKinley or Vivika and Otto Heino? However, the American pottery field was given wide coverage by this stimulating collection.

IMPRESSIONS OF TEXTILES by Lynda Powell, weaver.

On the whole I found the fabrics in the show very interesting and of high quality. I was extremely pleased to see the vast quantity of works using fiber as a medium. I thought the show was extremely good for what it was: a collection of work done by the craftsmen who produced some of the most exciting works in the 1960's. It was not in my opinion by any means the best work of American craftsmen, but it was an excellent survey of the crafts. The show had been travelling for some time, and as a result the works had to be portable and were of necessity "old". Claire Zeisler was represented in the show with her knotted and wrapped sculpture, "Winter White". It was a beautiful piece in white heavy cord, standing six feet high.

TEXTILES, continued

Dominic DiMare had one of his triple woven hangings in the show, and also one of his masks. The mask was made of clay, fine linen and feathers, but I felt this was one of his poorer pieces. The feathers looked rather scruffy and tired. Virginia Harvey, author of the book, Macramé, had a small piece of macramé in the show. It was extremely conventional with rows of different kinds of knots. Lenore Tawney's famous tapestry "Jupiter" was in the show. It is a beautifully executed tapestry in white and shades of blue and purple wool and silk. There was a hanging combining plexiglas and weaving by Ted Halman. Small pieces of plexiglas were woven into a black warp, and hanging against the light it was quite effective. There was a tapestry entitled "Unwoven Tapestry". Wool which was spun thick in some places and thin in others was stretched inside a square frame. It was an interesting linear pattern from a distance, but in my opinion the frame could have been better. It seemed awfully heavy and clumsy. Sheila Hicks' "The Principal Wife Goes On" was in the show. This is a piece done by wrapping thin linen threads with brilliant colours. It was an excellent example of how one technique can be used very effectively. Ted Halman had a beautiful hammock, and there were many other pieces good and bad. I believe there were over 70 pieces in the show which used fiber as a medium.

WORLD CRAFTS COUNCIL NEWS by Elizabeth Keeling, B.C. Representative

The W.C.C. is a non-government organization associated with U.N.E.S.C.O.

The 4th Biennial Conference, held in Dublin Aug. 16 - 22, 1970, had as its theme "The Craftsman as Creator" and attempted to bring this out in its seminars, films and slide showings, exhibits and demonstrations presented for the benefit of the 800 or more in attendance. Many countries of the world were represented and made a colourful event of the opening reception in Dublin Castle given by the Government of the Irish Republic.

The Conference itself took place at Ballsbridge on the outskirts of the city in facilities belonging to the Royal Dublin Society, which is devoted to sports and cultural affairs. While many of the conferees were accommodated in Trinity College residences, others were put up in the numerous hotels about town. Opportunities for trips outside of Dublin were provided, as well as visits to homes and special exhibitions by Irish members. The warm hospitality will long be remembered by all who were there.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Presentation of World Crafts Council Honor Awards to Hoji Hamada and Bernard Leach, well-known potters who were there to participate in other ways at the Conference as well.

Robert Davidson's totem pole was presented to the people of Ireland at a "potlatch" held at the Canadian Embassy.

Visit to Kilkenny Design Workshop
International Seminars

Ceramics, Michael Cardew (UK), K. Ohnsorg (Austria)

Enameling, Grete Korsmo (Norway)

Glass, Erwin Eisch (Germany)

Metal, Bent Pedersen (Denmark), B. Marshall (UK)

Textiles, Jack L. Larsen (USA)

New Constitution adopted

Plans for the first International Crafts Exhibition in Hamburg (1973) were discussed.

A survey of the marketing of crafts will continue with a view to establishing WCC shops in major world markets.

Invitations from Iran, Israel and Turkey to hold the next (1973) WCC Conference in one of these countries.

Regional meetings are planned as follows:

African Assembly in '71 in Ghana, and Liberia in '72

Asian Assembly in Malaysia in '71

European Assembly in Malta, '71

Latin American Assembly in Argentina in '71

North American Alliance in Canada in '71.

CANADA, formerly represented by Miss Norah McCullough now has Miss M.E. Muft on the Board as Treasurer. Early this year, the Canadian committee of 7 was elected from the membership on a regional basis. Program suggestions include setting up a committee on gov. relationships re customs and tax problems for craftsmen; bi-national exhibitions; hospitality for visiting craftsmen; educational cooperation; publication of a guide for visiting craftsmen.

IN MEMORIAM: It is with deep regret that we publish this item. Oliver Wells, 53, was killed recently in an automobile accident in Scotland. Primarily a farmer in Chilliwack, he saw how he could help foster the Salish weaving that was nearly dying out. He did this almost single-handedly by raising sheep for the wool to be spun and woven by the Indian women, and by doing the natural dyeing of the wool himself. He then helped find a market for the blankets and other crafts as well. Out of all this came a book on Salish weaving, and because the women were encouraged to continue and even begin, the art is flourishing.

A PARTIAL LIST OF SHOPS OFFERING ORIGINAL B.C. CRAFTS ON CONSIGNMENT

Burnaby Art Gallery "Shopping Bag" Boutique Opens late November
6344 Gilpin off Hwy 401, near James Cowan Centre
Hrs. Tues.-Fri., 12 - 5, Sat. & Sun. 1 - 5 Wed. & Fri. 7 - 9 p.m.

Canadian Cabin Crafts, 841 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver 1

~~Double Door Gallery & Studio~~, 69 Lonsdale, North Vancouver

Downstairs Gallery, 1425 Marine Drive, West Vancouver

Gallery of B.C. Arts, 1974 W. Georgia, Vancouver 5, 684-3941

Handcraft House, 110 W. Esplanade, North Vancouver, 988-6912

Pandora's Box, 1082 W. Georgia, Vancouver 5, 682-1122

The Quest, 1150 Government St., Victoria

Studio 319, 319 W. Cordova, Vancouver, 683-4816

Queen Elizabeth Theatre Lobby

A new concession run by Mrs. Jean Coleman for concert-goers. It is rotated so that series ticket-holders see something different each time. Jewelry, macramé, pottery, batik, accessories, etc. are there. Contact Mrs. Coleman at 4529 W. 5th Ave., Van. 8, 224-0265.

Tansar Crafts, 2002 W. 4th Ave., Vancouver 9, 732-7721.

NOTES ON CRAFT COURSES

Beginning a new series on Nov. 30th, TANSAR CRAFTS offers instruction in leather, weaving, jewelry, pottery. Phone 732-7721 for information.

Barbara Baanders, 752 Bridge St., Richmond, is holding pottery classes in her home. The next 12-week session begins Jan. 11th.

Avery Huyghe's next 12-week session also begins Jan. 11th. 224-5194.

Handcraft House will send out their new folder on January classes after Nov. 15th on request. Phone 988-6912 for a copy.

Leslie Glossop is to start a course in creative stitchery at Kerrisdale Community Centre in Jan. She will also be teaching at Kilarney and Marpole. Other craft courses are also taught in all centres. To be sure of the course content and teacher's background, phone centre offices before enrolling.

The DOUBLE DOOR GALLERY, 69 Lonsdale, N.V., offers courses in drawing and painting, print making, fabric arts and pottery. Children's pottery given at cost. Teaching are Brenda Davie, Kathy Blohm, Peter Aspell and Frances Faminow. Phone 929-2240.

U.B.C. CENTRE for CONTINUING EDUCATION will be again offering Joanna Staniskis' popular tapestry course in February. There was such a request for this class that a second one was scheduled, and there was still a waiting list of over 50 people. In February there will be an advanced course and beginning courses to handle the waiting list. Phone 228-2181.

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COMMENTS on this newsletter, long news items and articles should be sent to Miss Jean-Marie Weakland, Chairman, Craft Liason Committee, Faculty of Education, U.B.C., Vancouver 8, B.C.

SHOPS featuring crafts or craft supplies and SCHOOLS offering courses should send complete information to Pauline Scoten, 3158 W. 35th Ave., Van. 13.
DEADLINE for next issue: JANUARY 4TH.