

PRESENTED BY **Harry Ritchie's** JEWELERS

THE FAMILY, JEWELS

YOU SURE YOU DROPPED IT RIGHT AROUND HERE?

IT'S ONE OF THE DIAMOND EARRINGS YOU GOT ME FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY. LOOK UNDER THERE.

I DON'T WANT IT REPLACED! THEY WERE A GIFT FROM YOU, AND THEY'RE VERY SPECIAL AND VALUABLE TO ME.

YES, RIGHT AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

DON'T WORRY PEARL. IF WE DON'T FIND IT I CAN ALWAYS REPLACE IT. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE A HARRY RITCHIE'S ACCOUNT ANYWAY.

BUT, NO MATTER HOW VALUABLE OR BEAUTIFUL THE EARRING IS, REMEMBER, IT IS ONLY A SYMBOL. A TOKEN OF MY LOVE FOR YOU. YOU STILL HAVE ME, DON'T YOU?

AND A LUCKY WOMAN I AM TO HAVE YOU, TOO. BUT WE'RE TALKING HALF A CARAT OF DIAMOND TOKEN HERE. NOW STOP THAT, AND HELP ME LOOK!

LOOK THERE... WHAT'S THAT? IS THAT IT BEHIND YOUR FOOT?

CAN I DROP IT THIS TIME?

OH.

I'M LOOKING! I'M LOOKING!

FOR THE EARRING!

SURE.

YES! THAT'S IT! YOU FOUND IT. THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

NO PROBLEM SWEETHEART.

I LOVE YOU ♪ SMAK ♪

I LOVE YOU TOO ♪ SMAK ♪

Encore!

Socio-political consciousness makes 80s art stand out

Local artists say styles may change, but love for art never will

By Kelvin Wee
Encore Editor

Art is more than just a few brush strokes over canvas or a few pats on the lump of clay sitting on the potters wheel.

In the last 10 years, the world of art has overcome many obstacles that most military forces may succumb to — budget cuts.

However, as the University Museum of Art's Curator of Exhibitions Tommy Griffin said, the local community has a network of funding institutions that have managed to obtain much needed funds for local artists.

Most of these funds are from the National Endowment for the Arts, he said.

"I think that artists in the trenches now are feeling more comfortable with the funding network and process, and are now submitting requests for funding," he said. This allows more talents to surface from the "trenches" and exposes more artists from the area.

However, the NEA came under fire recently by several conservative Congress persons who felt it was not appropriate to fund "obscene" art like those of Robert Mapplethorpe. Mapplethorpe is famous for his artistic, non-pornographic photography of the male nude body.

In addition, Mapplethorpe is just only one of the many artists who have been taken by the plague of the 80s — AIDS.

AIDS, a disease that has affected more than 100,000 Americans, has taken a significant toll against the community of artists and entertainers. Its effects have been so significant that the community of artists have come together to commemorate their fellow artists in a special day — *A Day Without Art*.

A Day Without Art celebrated its second anniversary this year with the participation of more than 400 institutions nationwide. Locally, the event was honored by about eight galleries.

Other social-political issues also have become more prominent in art works produced in the last decade.

Local artist Pam Cohen said this is probably because there has been a lot of social pressure and a lot of changes that are being forced on society.

"I think artists are kind of expressing that in their work," she said. "For myself, I usually do work that is based on my own personal feelings and beliefs."

Cohen said she believes that artists of the past also expressed these same feelings and beliefs in their works, but those of the more modern era have managed to express it more

clearly because people know a lot more today than they did before.

"We know a lot more now and are more aware of other things. I believe that they did (express their feelings) but it's sort of a process where we are now," she said.

As for herself, Cohen tries to project in her work is an expression of being human.

"What I do mostly in my work is about human beings and the commonality among us. People usually try to categorize us, as Jews or as women or as men," she said, explaining that she is just trying to express the basic human value of people in her own life as well.

Photographer Nancy Jones, a founding member of the PhotoZone Gallery, said the gallery is concerned with many contemporary topics.

"Photographers are more involved in political images," Jones said, but added that people interpret and read into art and photographs the way they want to. Jones said this happens with all media of art.

The world of art has seen a soaring increase in the pricing of "old master's" works. If one remembers, Vincent Van Gogh's *Irises*, Pablo Picasso's self-portrait *Yo Picasso* sold for \$47.9 million, Paul Gauguin's *Mata Mua* for \$24.2 million, while most others go for amounts that many artists today don't even expect to amass in two lifetimes.

In truth, many artists still do not receive much recognition or remuneration for their works while they are alive. Consider the master Van Gogh. When *Irises* was painted in 1889, he got nothing for it. In fact, he sold only one piece of work during his lifetime.

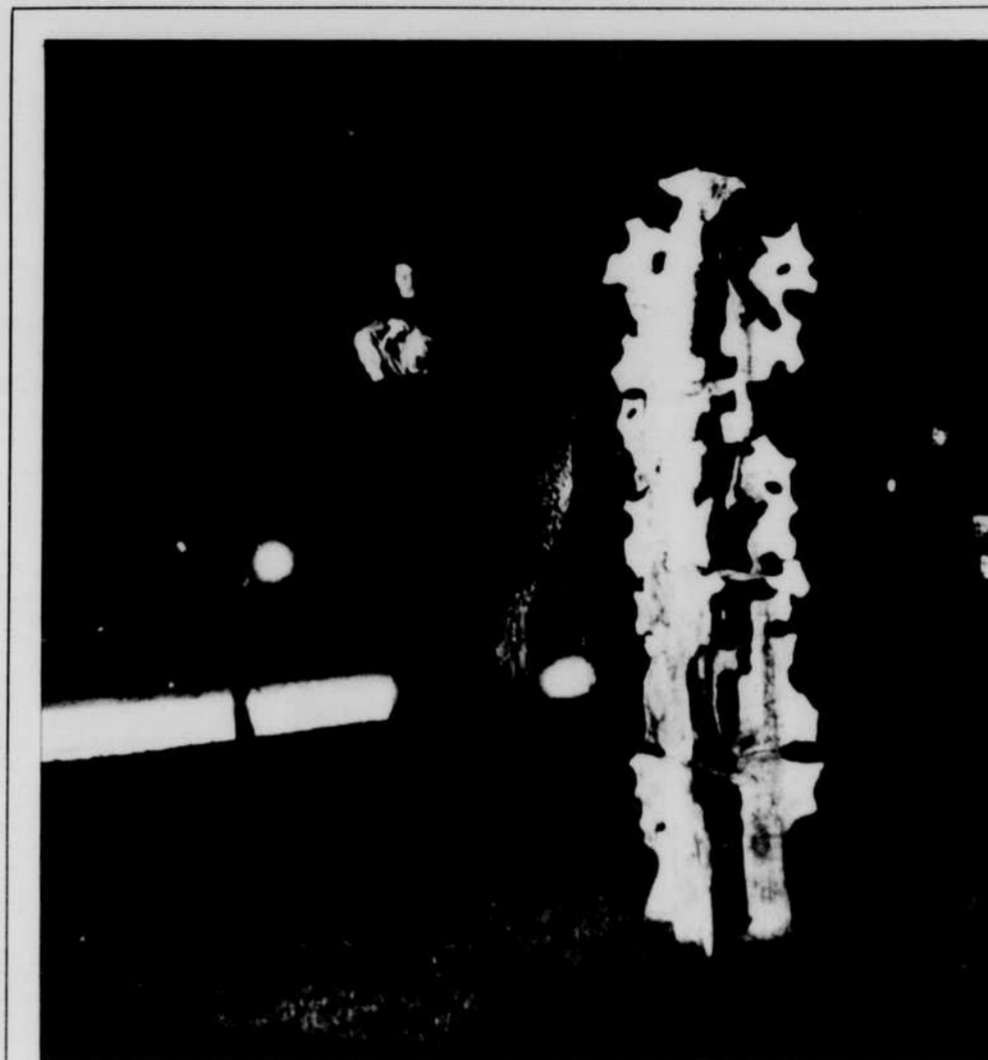
Several decades later, in 1947, the same piece that brought the master nothing brought a New York gallery \$80,000 (when considered at the value of today's dollar, the painting would have cost \$420,000).

Yet a few more decades, in 1987, *Irises* was sold at Sotheby's where it was bought by Alan Bond for \$53.9 million.

Local painter Rod Swenson said he is just one of many artists who will never sell a piece of his works for \$53.9 million. He said his works sell from \$35 to \$100 a piece.

Swenson said he paints because he loves to paint and sells his works for the prices they are because he lives in an area which allows him to do only that.

He said that art should be affordable but at the same time allow the artist to make a living wage.



Large dogs

Senior Keith Mitchell sits behind his sculpture that "represents a student's ideological struggle for autonomy in an increasingly institutionalized society, or large dogs."

Photo by Paul Mitchell

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