

## Local artist displays Nepalese bronze

by Lyn Marie Thompson  
Photo Editor

Local artist, Lee Kelly, came to Clackamas Community College last Wednesday evening to present his latest work. He also gave a talk and slide show on Traditional Bronze casting in Nepal.

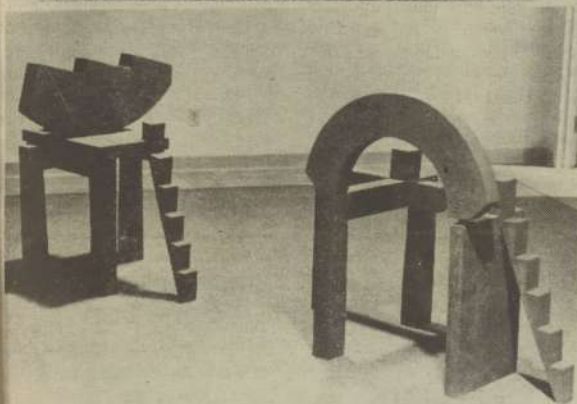
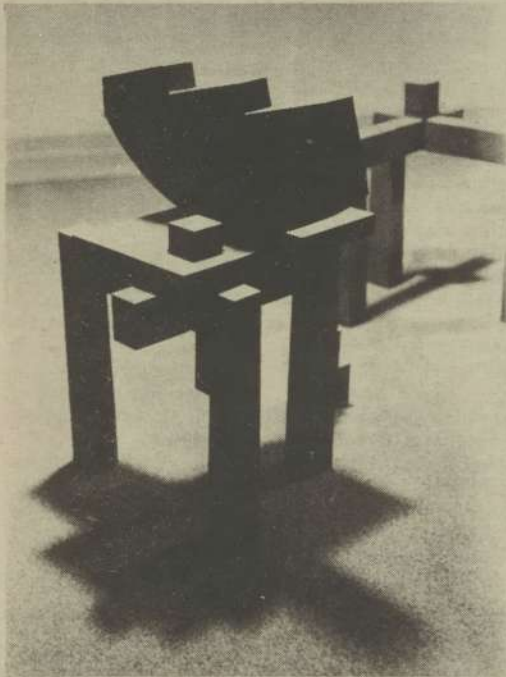
Lee became interested in the traditional bronze castings of Nepal in the summer of '82 when he was organizing a trek to go around the Annapurnas. While in Kathmandu, friends introduced him to the Shakyas, a Newari family in Patan, Nepal. Kelly lived with Kaji Shakyas and the Shakyas family while studying and working with Kaji on bronze casting.

Kelly wanted to study the Nepalese procedures of casting, specifically the shell mold process and to see his own ideas developed. "My goal was to establish a working relationship between two artists from different cultures and to see what we could learn from one another."

Lee said that what he learned was that even though the Western culture is so proud of its high technology and elevated techniques, the Nepalese produce work that equals and sometimes surpasses western quality. The Nepalese do it with the simpler old fashioned techniques.

During the slide show of Nepalese culture, architecture, people, and art, Kelly showed examples of typical bronze castings - generally Buddas, and of the actual casting process.

After the slide presentation, Lee answered questions from the audience. When asked what the



Lyn Thompson photos



Artist, Kelly, learned old fashioned bronze casting in Nepal

stair like shapes in this work meant or represented, he answered, "Stairs, I like architecture, so they're just what they look like."

When the question of bringing his works through customs arose, Kelly said that the pieces had holes drilled into them so that customs wouldn't suspect them to be drug smuggling items. Customs wasn't satisfied, however, and actually pounded a hole in one of his pieces to search for drugs.

Kelly's work is on display in the Pauling Gallery, as well as in Portland and Seattle. In addition to this he has also been advising

coordinators of the Sculpture Symposium to be done this summer at Clackamas Community.

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