



Dick Jemison's poster art: Mixed media, like the show

Exhibitors Are Selected In Juried Festival Show

By WENDY WILSON

After looking at 1,800 creations by 600 New Mexico artists in jurying the 1980 Armory/Museum/Festival Show competition, Dianne P. Vanderlip has some very definite impressions about the state's artistic community.

"I found the whole area of New Mexico one of the strongholds of art in the country," said Vanderlip, curator of contemporary art at the Denver Art Museum. "The art I found here is very personal. Artists aren't playing any of the games you find going on in places like Chicago. For instance, there are no fights going on between lyrical abstractionists, color field artists or new image artists. Everyone here is comfortable with what they are doing."

Artists, especially here in the Southwest, are looking to their own environment, the landscape's beauty and light quality, rather than to what is written in art magazines, she said.

"This kind of show is awfully important in getting new work shown. There are a lot of people in the show who have never been seen before," Vanderlip said. She selected 250 works by 122 artists, 54 of them from Santa Fe, 49 from Albuquerque, five from Taos and the rest from other parts of the state.

Though she has no preference in artistic style, Vanderlip said, "The things I collect for myself, which are a good indication of the things I like, are rarely non-objective. It's much harder to find good non-objective work than narrative work or art with recognizable images. It's much harder to make an abstract painting."

Vanderlip said there was no predetermined number of works to be chosen for the show. "I had absolute freedom to select any number of pieces, and it happened that what I selected was appropriate for the amount of space in the Armory." For the jurying process, the Armory's director, Art Thomas, said, works were identified by numbers rather than the artists' names. The photography entries were "very, very strong," Vanderlip said, and there was "lots of good drawing." But she said she was disappointed that more crafts were not submitted.

Six artists were selected to receive exhibition awards. Photographer Terry Husebye was chosen for a one-person show at the Museum of Fine Arts after it reopens in 1982. Husebye came to Santa Fe in 1978 after receiving a master's degree in fine art from the University of Wisconsin in

Madison. He does Hassleblad large format photographs in color, and has done a limited edition book of his own work, a documentary of flood victims in Harrisburg, Pa.

Steina Vasulka was selected to present a video show next year in the Foyer Gallery at the Armory. Her electronic tape "Machine Vision III," previously performed at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, N.Y., will be presented during this year's Festival of the Arts. Steina, who also collaborates with her husband, Woody Vasulka, but uses only her first name when working by herself, was born in Iceland in 1940, and trained as a violinist at the Prague Music Conservatory from 1959 to 1963.

Coming to the U.S. in 1965, the Vasulkas have been a seminal force in the development of electronic art since 1970. They are co-founders of the Kitchen, a multi-media modern arts center in New York City, and came to Santa Fe last January. Steina has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Young, self-taught Spanish painter Oliver Ortiz, who shows at Hill's Gallery of Contemporary Art, has been chosen with woodcarver Eluid Martinez for a two-person show in the Foyer Gallery next year. Most of Ortiz's works are expressionistic renditions of landscapes, adobe houses and churches in bold colors.

Martinez, an engineer, carves santos, and has written a bilingual book called, "What Is a New Mexico Santo?" published by Sunstone Press. He is descended on his mother's side from the Lopez santeros woodcarving family, woodcarvers since the mid-17th century.

A "wall scratching" or mixed media work in marble dust, sand and oxides on paper by Dick Jemison was selected as the official poster for the juried show. Called "Teepees, Triangles and Pyramids," it has geometric shapes and the feeling of ancient cultures. Jemison, who has a master's degree in fine art from the University of Georgia, ran an art gallery in Birmingham, Ala., before settling in Santa Fe a year ago.

Albuquerque printmaker David Mayhew received the Frederick O'Hara Print Award as the outstanding printmaker in the show.

The show, sponsored by the Armory, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Santa Fe Festival of the Arts, will be on display from noon to 6 p.m. daily from Oct. 9 to 19 at the Armory, 1050 Old Pecos Trail. Those selected to exhibit are listed on the next page.