Fabrics capture culture's texture

By CORINNE ABATT
February may go down in local history as fabric month.
Two exhibitions are being planned which will focus on fabric and how artists, emicent and contemporary, turn it into an art form.
An exhibition, "The Dyer's Art. will open at the Creatrook Academy of Art Misseum with a special preview of the Artiste Misseum with a special preview.

An exhibition,
An exh on Feb. 25.

This evening of supper, dancing and entertainment, sponsored by the Women's Committee of the art academy, is a \$125 per couple party that will feature modes showing the functional content of the couple party that will feature modes showing the functional content of the couple party that will be content of the couple party that will be content of the couple party that couple coup

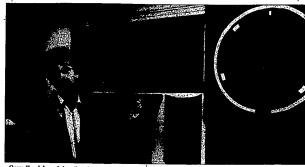
the dye won't penetrate.

IN BATIK, liquid wax is applied to keep the dye from penetrating certain areas of the design. Sometimes in lieu of wax, paste, starch, resin or clay is used on the resist area. Plangir refers to stitch and fold binding so the dye won't penetrate. Gary Knodel, head of the Cranbrook fiber department along with Liz and Robert Bandsuch, is working on the exhibition and plans for the preview. Knodel, himself a collector of fabrics from around the world, said the exhibition gives a tremendous thrust to the acceptance of this type of applied are as true art form. acceptance of this type of applied as a true art form.

Explaining in his studio that many of the febrics in the show were made to

the fabrics in the show were made to be worn, he said, "People today don't think about clothing as being artistic-ally expressive. People who make their own clothing are more sensitive

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Gary Knodel explains the significance of the fab. ern Thalland. Designs on the skirt are similar to ries displayed in his Cranbrook studio. The large rec. those found on Chinese bronzes indicating the anciend tangular piece is a brilliant red and blue from, history of the tribe. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell). Sumatra and the circular piece is a skirt from north-

Sumatra and the circular piece is a skirt from northto what they rewaring. '
In other cultures, dyed fabrics designs include symbols of identity of the family of shipped symbols of the shipped symbols of the family of shipped symbols of the family of the fa

explained.
"Some much time is invested in the making of the fabric that it becomes a mataphor for the passage of time—a symbol of the continuity of life," Kno-dat coid.

del said

In this circular, knife-pleated skirt
from Thailand, there is one narrow
panel of plain blue relieved only by a
small square of embroidery. One very
rusch like it from northern Thailand
will be on exhibit.

Knoele pointe this tenne of tracking
Knoele pointe this tenne of tracking
to beyond limitation of plain
tory of this is tousands of years old.

An intricately dyed and woven shawl

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the individual, who would in time be be theired in it.

IF. FOR ONE REASON or another, some of these fabrics were available to buy, the prospective buyer, following tradition, would take a stack of them to an astrologer and have him pet the most appropriate one for him. The stack of the sta

pared this work, and others which will be in the exhibition, to painting.

Knodel said he believed these fabrics were more than clothing and more than symbols of the continuity of life, "They were made for people who live in a barren environment. They bring a richness to their lives."

AT YAW GALLERY starting on Feb. 17, there will be an exhibit of contemporary yardage fragments representing the work of eight nationally recognized fabric designers. One of these will be Knodel, who will show a series of slik dyed lengths similar in size to an Indian sari, intended to be worn.

worn.

The surface designs at Yaw Gallery will be on silk, cotton and corduroy. Some of them, made up, will be modeled at the Yaw Gallery opening. The exhibit will run through March 29.

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