

Show features furniture, ceramics

By Corinne Abett
staff writer

Carol Hooberman Gallery, always dependable as a showcase for art that sets the pace for the mainstream, opens the fall season with a pleasing combination of furniture and ceramics.

Rita and Michael Duvall of Bear Lake are the ceramists. About half of the 11 furniture makers, none of whom has shown in the metropolitan area before, come from Boston University, a center for contemporary woodworking.

There's a continuity in the show because everything in the gallery has some kind of an architectural reference. Thus, Hooberman's choice of titles, "Patterns, Edges and Planes: Furniture and Ceramics" is appropriate.

Many of the furniture makers show only one or two pieces, but that's adequate for those who would like to talk about commissions, and that's apparently the life-blood for many of these artists.

Particularly enjoyable among the furniture makers is the glass-topped coffee table by Judy Kenaley McKie of Cambridge. She comes out of a folk art tradition and uses all animal forms. The base is

four dogs each holding the tail of the one ahead of it in its mouth.

The two plant-stand-type tables by Gary Knox Bennett of Oakland, Calif., have an outline of a chambered nautilus in mother of pearl inlaid in the top. Even though sleek and contemporary, both have references to the Victorian parlor plant stands close to a century ago. There's some Bauhaus influence too.

In fact, that's what makes all of this furniture fun and interesting — the new approaches to old ideas. As often as not, the woodworkers show a bit of humor and levity — Tom Losser's "Earthquake Table" with its parts slipping out of kilter being the prime example although Edward's Zurca's spoof of a dressing table is a delightful piece of art.

Michael and Rita Duvall have pushed their ceramic art into new dimensions. His free-standing forms, many meant to be vases, are combinations of geometric forms, rectangles, triangles and squares. Because of the medium and the way he uses color, these have the same quality of well-de-

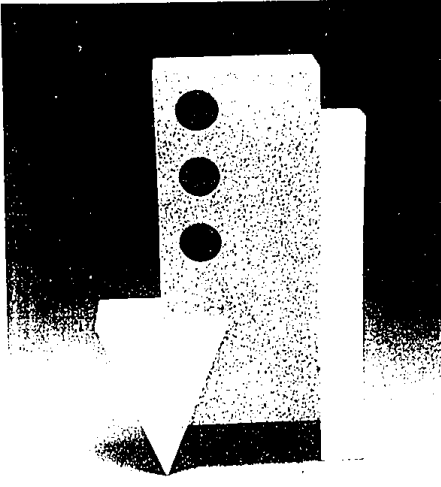
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signed architecture. They look as if they belong, never jarring, never harsh, but rather forming an interesting three-dimensional profile.

Rita Duvall has expanded upon the contemporary designs that she once used on her functional plates and cups. Her ceramic and wood wall pieces, sculptural interpretation of those designs, work well and show how good design can be adapted to more than one size and increased dimensions.

Both Duvalls use planes of color with a kind of quiet authority. They know what they're doing.

The show continues through Oct. 3. Regular gallery hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 155 S. Bates, Birmingham.



Low fire vase, 8 by 4 by 14 inches, by Michael Duvall, is part of the show at Carol Hooberman Gallery of Birmingham. Each section is a different soft pastel color.

Auditions set

Detroit Grand Opera Association will hold its annual auditions Nov. 9 and 10 at Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit.

The awards include the Samuel J. Lang \$3,000 scholarship, the Elizabeth Hodges Donovan \$1,000 memorial and the Henry E. Wenger \$1,000 Memorial.

Applications for the auditions must be returned by Oct. 25. For information, contact Mrs. Paul E. Ewing, district auditions chairman, 32005 Alameda, Farmington Hills, 48018, 477-8829.

Music series slated

Jack DuBois will give a series of six lectures on "Great Piano Concertos and Their Composers" at Somerset Mall Dinner Theatre, Troy beginning at 7:30 p.m. Monday. They will continue Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 21 and 28.

He will highlight the piano concertos of Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, along with other composers.

There will be discussion of the concerto sources of each composer and the creative circumstances of the compositions.

The programs, 7:30 to 9 p.m. will include time for discussion and questions. For information, call Jack C. Du Bois, 882-2325.

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