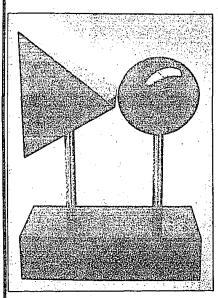
Creative Living

Thursday, September 7, 1989 O&E



Stone cutter to sculptor—a fine line



rancesco Actitelli refers to his black marble sculpture, "Equal Volumes," as a "little intellectual exercise." It is a pedestal piece, different from anything cloo in the exhibit.

staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky

Francesco Acitelii of Detroit is frequently described as a stone cutter and carver. That's an ex-tremely modest description for a outstanding sculptor who works in stone, metal and wood.

His work is on display at the AmeriCenters building, 7 West Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills. The opening reception is 4-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8. The works will continue to be on display there through Nov. 17.

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The building, completed in March 1888, is an attractive setting for these 18 works of art. Several handsome outdoor pieces are in the ground level garden patho, opening off the lobby, Others are in the lobby and in two rooms, specially set aside, down the ball.

ACITELLI, SON of Italian immigrant parents, learned stonecutting from his father.

"I worked summers when I was a kid," he said, "I grew up with the tools."

But, this self-taught artist has taken his work far beyond that tra-ditionally associated with skilled stonecutters, although he still does that on commission for residences and commercial buildings.

HE DOES functional and non-functional pleces, but he disagreed on the term non-functional. "It all functions," he said, "It fills an emotional need."

Then, with a kind of half-smile, he said, "The making of art is about as arrogant a job as a person can have. You can't eat it, you can't make a garden with it, but, it fills a very deep need."

As he spoke of how he laminates marble in particular the carefully cut and stepped, curved red marble base of a glass-topped table, he said, "One of the things I try to do

The red marble spiral base is hollow, he said, otherwise it would be too heavy to deal with. As it is, it weighs approximately 85 pounds.

HIS PARTICULAR satisfaction or challenge, he said, "Is to defy the limits of the materials." He can make marble look as light and pliable as putty. He can stretch and pull metal so it has the same almost weightless look (until lifted).

Many of the handsome marble pedestal plees in the exhibit arise from his interest in the helix form that he sees in nature. Two examples he cited were chromosomes and the inside of a conch shell. "Sometimes the simplest things in nature are the most beautiful."

ONE THAT looks different from the mobius and hellx forms in the same room is "Egual Volumes." Acitelli referred to it as "a little intellectual exercise." It is a pedestal plece in black marble with a tilted tetrahedron (a solid figure with four triangular faces) beside a sohere.

with four transguar faces beside a sphere.

"It is the juxtaposition of the two that makes it interesting," he said.

"The sphere has the least surface for the mass," the tetrahedron has the most, yet they weigh the same."

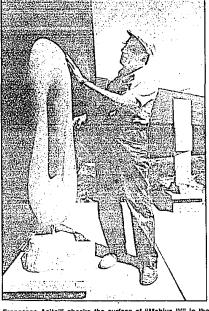
Activity is a master craftsman.

the most, yet they weigh the same."

Acitelli is a master craftsman, but he is also a philosopher, a keen observer of nature and people and a fine artist. He was selected by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C., to demonstrate the art of stone carving at the Festival of Michigan Folk Life in East Lanslag this August.

His furniture pieces have been shown at Billi Born Ltd., Michigan Design Center of Troy, His sculpture is in galleries in Florida and Chicago. He is represented locally by Agnes Derbin.

AmeriContere' is open during regular business hours.



Francesco Acitelli checks the surface of "Mobius IV" in the courtyard of the AmeriCenters building at the corner of Square Leke and Labesr, Bloomfield Hills. It and "Windsong," in the background, are limestone.



Vance Hanna said that attention must always be given to watering the bensai plants. They have shallow roots and dry out

Bonsai, study in patience

Winning the lottery could hardly have pleased Vance Hanna of Birmingham any more than his first prize at the Mid-American Bonsal Exhibition in Chicago last month. His Junipersu Virginiams, which he collected in Waterford Township about 10 years ago when it was 20 feet tall, got the first place ribbon. His grove planting of larch won ihird.

Gordon Holaiman of Bloomfield

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Hills, a fellow bensal enthusiast, won
two firsts and a third place award at
the exhibition. He won special recog-

nition and first for his Ponderao
nition and first for his Ponderao
nine, styled and shown in a pot he
made himself. His other first was for
a large Scote Pine and his third was
for a boxwood he grew from a seedling.
Other Michigan residents who won
which draws thousands of people
cach year were Jack Wilde of
Tecumsch, editor of Bonsai: Journal
of Tbo American Bonsai Scotty, and.
Bruce Baker and Jerry Mestillio of
Ann Arbor.
Hanna, who also wins nation
prizes for jewelry, said, "I'vo been
working scriously at boxsai for 13
be a size and fooling around with it for

for very long because they have shallow root systems. Hanna said the whole process of cultivating and nurticular these trees "is an invectment of the state of th

Art fairs keep potter working

The big art shows such as Ann Ar-bor, Meadow Brook and Art in the Park, coming this weekend in Bir-mingham, provide good exposure for potter Kaiser Suldan of Birming-ham.

Suldan's work is easy to spot be-cause he works in several shades of teal, a color, few if any others are using. Often he combines it with shades of smokey gray with a dull

finish to create a timeless, southwestern look. He also does pots with lots of colors arranged in geometric patterns. Some of his detailing such as handles and trim has an architectural art deco look to it, others are pure classic shapes. He works in both raku and porcelain. And while his raku pleces, large and small, are impressive, and he likes the medium, he said, "Raku is so unreliable, it breaks all the time." So at the medium, he said, "Raku is so unreliable, it breaks all the time." So at the medium, he said, "Raku is so unreliable, it breaks all the time." So at the medium, he said, "Raku is so unreliable, it breaks and the time." So at the medium, he said, "Raku is so unreliable, it breaks are said." The said is the said which is the said of the said which is the said of the said which is the said of t



Kalser Suiden holds one of his favorite pieces, clear glaze roku with the geometric detailing which has become one of his signature designs.