

Paintings to contemplate carry messages

**Story: CORINNE ABATT
Photos: DICK KELLEY**

In this rush-rush era when many people allow a few minutes to drop into an art gallery, Lee Hoffman just opened an exhibit of paintings that demand time, meditation and a period of contemplation to grasp fully.

Both the artist, Harry Nadler, associate professor at the University of New Mexico and Ms. Hoffman hope visitors will take the time when they come in to soak up the nuances and sense the various levels of consciousness which are in Nadler's works. He is showing two series, Labyrinth II, which are oils and Ocean Rhythms in acrylics.

Nadler said rather proudly that one fellow artist recently dubbed him "a serious geometer." It is a phrase Nadler appreciates.

THE GEOMETRIC APPROACH IS THERE alright, in both series, but it is lighter in Ocean Rhythms which has a linear perfection and well-structured order. However, there is both flow and movement within the order, not only from the design but from within in the way the layers of paint are built up.

Nadler switched back to oils for his latest, the Labyrinth II series, because oil gives a different quality and more brushwork is apparent with that medium. The lines are not as clearly

drawn although the structure is there as are the depths of involvement. But, oil paint was appropriate to send home one of Nadler's statements more strongly—the spaces are defined, but not as rigidly.

FOR A LABYRINTH, AS THE ARTIST SEES IT is a metaphor for life.

"I have always been fascinated by the myth of the labyrinth. You try to get through it, to find the path and then finally, you're thrown out."

Nadler explained that in Greek mythology the man who first made the labyrinth was Daedalus, father of Icarus. James Joyce played on the same theme in "Ulysses" in which the

lead character is Stephen Dedalus and the streets of Dublin are the labyrinth. In describing this relationship between literature and art, Nadler said it is in the spaces of the labyrinth that we discover other relationships.

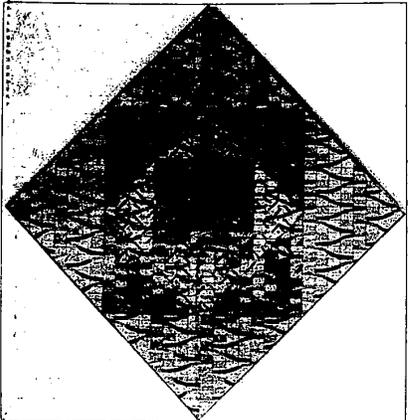
The grid with dots, lines and some symbols has always been a part of his work. Nadler said adding that he is beginning to develop a kind of pictograph language of his own which has no relationship to any particular alphabet.

Along with the geometric design, the modular approach includes not only alternatives in the placement of the elements, but the layers provide a different perspective from different

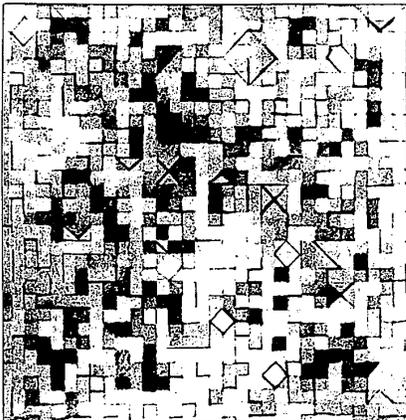
angles. A square apparent at one viewing position, disappears at another or appears in another dimension.

One painting, a transition work which bridges the two series, has a Byzantine feel to it. When another artist mentioned that to Nadler as he was hanging the show at Lee Hoffman Gallery, he said her comment pleased him—he wasn't aware of the Byzantine influence as he was doing it, but he liked the idea of a tie to another culture.

The works will be on display at Lee Hoffman Gallery, 538 N. Woodward, through April 11. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



From the Ocean Rhythm series, this acrylic by Harry Nadler is best viewed from more than one angle.



One of Nadler's Labyrinth II series at Lee Hoffman Gallery, this oil illustrates the artist's growing fascination with pictograph-type symbols.

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