

Fiber artist moves beyond loom's confines

Story: GEORGIA KUX
Photos: STEPHEN CANTRELL
Robert L. Kidd's new fiber wall

reliefs appear to be celebrating special kind of freedom, that of sassy off-spring released in part from the par-

ent loom and having a high time of it all.
In the five large works on view at

Kidd's gallery in Birmingham, the loom's enriching influence is felt. It holds a loose rein, however, and fabric and fiber explore new dimensions. They billow and bristle, form lyrical lines, and, on occasion, display the trappings of a super sampler.
"This is my attempt to do more work off the loom than on it," Kidd said.

The master weaver and designer said he has long been interested in off-the-loom structures because the technique allows unlimited freedom. Kidd takes full advantage of this freedom, reveling in it, building fabric upon fabric with glue and stitching, incorporating flat or tubular woven pieces with forms stuffed with Dacron or foam rubber.

HE HAS BROUGHT RIVAL TEXTURES to peaceful coexistence. A birdseye pattern, for example, becomes a good neighbor to a crisp, diagonal cording; paper, woven into a cane pattern, is placed nearby a nubby weave. Smooth fabrics undulate like hills against thick forests of wrapped fibers. These fibers are loops of knobby Mexican cotton burst exuberantly from their fringed, folded or tucked ties that bind.

The fiber wall reliefs will continue at the gallery, 107 Townsend through April.



There is a dramatic balance of colors and textures.



This section of a Kidd wall relief shows the careful treatment that goes into the three-dimensional pieces.

Detroit TV supporters raise record \$638,000

The 10th annual Channel 56 auction was "far and away" the most successful sellathon of donated merchandise in the public television station's history, station personnel say.

The nine-day auction ended April 15 and raised an all-time high of \$638,500—more than 19 per cent more than last year's auction total.

The station exceeded its \$500,000 goal despite shortening the hours of the auction in the final two days to conserve incoming merchandise. However, the station put out a final call for donations which was carried by the media and area merchants promptly responded. Channel 56's warehouse was then replenished with enough merchandise to carry the auction through its scheduled Saturday night sign-off.

The concluding totals show that of the 68 public television stations that broadcast auctions, Channel 56 ranks fourth in dollars raised, behind New

York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Joan Hicks, a 10-year auction veteran who headed the volunteer force behind the auction, called the event "a major milestone" for the station and the community.

"Revenue from the auction will help cover our broadcast expenses for the coming year," said general manager James Christianson. "Through their support, the citizens of southeastern Michigan and southern Ontario showed us that they value the public TV programming that Channel 56 provides."

Auction manager Honey Friedman said past auctions have contributed more than \$3.5 million to the support of the non-commercial station. Other major sources of funding include individual viewer contributions and grants from local foundations, corporations and the federal government.

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Safety Council moves office to Southfield

The Great Detroit Safety Council has established new offices and training facilities in Southfield.

The council, which has served the metropolitan Detroit area for more than 50 years, plans an open house to acquaint the general public and its membership with the offices and the services available.

Open house hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, April 20 at the new offices, 16250 Northland Drive. The offices are accessible from the Lodge and Southfield Freeways, as well as Eight Mile and Greenfield roads.

The council is a chartered chapter of the National Safety Council and offers a continuing program of education for the increased safety and health protection of southeast Michigan residents.

An incorporated, non-profit corporation sup-

ported by membership dues and numerous training programs, membership in the council is open to any person, company, association or government agency willing to promote the objectives of the council, said Fay Knapp, executive director of the council.

The primary objectives of the council are to educate, inform and stimulate interest in accident prevention.

President of the council is Neil McCallum of the Chrysler Corp. Benjamin Gieslik of General Motors is vice-president. Robert Nelson of the Detroit News is secretary, and treasurer is Dominic C. Rossi, retired chairman of the board for Darin and Armstrong.

For further information about the council, persons may call the Southfield offices at 557-7010.

New officers at Bnai Moshe

Officers and board members who will serve Congregation Bnai Moshe in Oak Park for the coming year will be installed following Vesper services on Saturday, April 29, the last day of Passover.

The new officers are: Robert Hirschstein, president; Milton Marvil, vice president; Bert Stein, vice president; Dr. Leonard Demak, vice president; Lawrence Horowitz, recording secretary; Eliot Raskin, corresponding secretary and Larry Rockind, treasurer.

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