

Artistic time travel can be habit forming

"Head of Medusa" is from the third century B.C. and shows the classic beauty while she was still young and the snakes less ominous than art which shows her older and more haggard.



By Benita Bornstein
Special writer

Diamonds are forever. And so apparently are the 3,000 B.C. amulets from Mesopotamia on display at the Donna Jacobs Gallery of Birmingham.

One can almost hear the Mesopotamian woman plead, "Darling, I just must have that ornament. After all, it's meant for good luck."

In the holiday exhibition at the recently expanded Donna Jacobs Gallery of ancient arts, the artifacts have a beauty that is, indeed, timeless and ageless. The green and yellow gold chains or pendant set with garnets and green and blue glass of the Roman-Byzantine period 300-600 A.D. would complement any contemporary fashion, except perhaps "punk."

The designs on the ancient Coptic textiles (Christian Egypt 300-7th century) upon close examination re-

veal minuscule Dabuffet or Klee-like figures. Etruscan pottery of the 8th-7th century B.C. shows a strong Greek geometric influence.

JACOBS, whose first love and interest was contemporary art, found she was reaching farther back in history to explain what she was seeing and experiencing in modern art.

She said she feels strongly that ancient pieces of good quality with a fine sense of proportion and aesthetically appealing transcended time and carry a uniqueness that can never be duplicated in modern works.

She added that every piece in the exhibition possesses these qualities. It is identifiable, and was personally selected by her. Even a common pottery storage vessel or an Etruscan horse bit 7th-6th century B.C. constructed for utilitarian purposes can be a special work of art if beautifully executed.

The "Head of Medusa" is an ex-

ample of such an exquisitely rendered artifact. Part of a ceremonial vessel, this rare terra cotta third century B.C. object reveals Medusa in her youth and classic original beauty.

The serpent-like tresses curl around a lovely face as yet unchanged. The head has a decided outward thrust, almost like the head of a prow of a ship. The back of the piece is gracefully scooped.

THE ONLY pieces of art that don't qualify as ancient, yet belong in the exhibition, are the highly sophisticated rugs loomed by the 6-11-year-old children of the Village Workshops of Egypt.

Young Egyptian children create on looms as naturally as American children draw with crayons. These brightly colored textiles loomed in characteristic Egyptian style are an outgrowth of an educational experiment that began in 1952.

review

The age of the child can be discerned by the complexity of the images, intricacies of pattern, textures and coloration.

In ascending the stairs to the Donna Jacobs Gallery, there is a sense of leaving behind the bustle-bustle of the street. In a home-like environment with comfortable chairs, an accessible library and an enthusiastic owner, it's easy to be seduced into learning and appreciating the ancient arts.

Donna Jacobs Gallery is at 574 N. Woodward, Birmingham. The exhibition runs through December. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

Drawn with love

Continued from Page 1

In one drawing the artist departs from her subject to concentrate on a baseball bat. In "D Hat" the simplicity of the single object allows the viewer to see the subtleties of shading and stroke as she suggests the movement of swinging.

Here the color is stronger, a royal blue against a white background with strokes of red on the side — the all-American symbol.

DONNA RAE Hart is assistant professor of two-dimensional art at Massachusetts College of Art in Boston where she is also chairman of the printmaking department. She received her bachelor of fine arts

from the University of Michigan and her master of fine arts from the University of Wisconsin. She was winner of the 1974 purchase prize in the Davidson National Print and Drawing Competition.

She was also in the "Eight New England Artists" exhibition at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, December 1974 to February 1977. This museum has purchased a Donna Rae Hart drawing.

The Arnold Kline Gallery is at 452 N. Woodward. Royal Oak Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. The exhibition will be on view through the end of December.

Citizens' group aids the arts

By Ruth Zarom
Special writer

The annual meeting of the Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan (CCAM), was preceded by a short concert of the Renaissance City Chamber Players. This latter is one out of the two resident chamber groups in the whole of the United States.

The CCAM is a group of people who have an interest in all of the art forms as they are developing in Michigan — be it in the areas of music, painting, poetry, dance, theater, etc. This group came into being last year. It had its first meeting in Lansing with 30 members present, among them, Kitty Carlisle and Gov. James Blanchard.

Peter Stroop (Stroop's Brewery) is chairman of CCAM and Lee Hanson (WQRS) is president. Publicity is being handled by Warren Sawyer (Touche & Ross).

This is a statewide organization. There are four annual meetings which are held at different places throughout the state. To facilitate statewide cover-

age a division into 14 regions with a vice president presiding over each of them has been performed.

MICHIGAN has about 20 major art organizations in music. Michigan has the fourth strongest industry in the nation. A strong effort is being made to facilitate the arts in Michigan in whatever location they might be situated, and therefore, a strong effort is being made to attract people who are involved in the arts either as participants or audience to this organization. Membership dues at this time are \$5 per year, although this might change in the relatively near future.

The CCAM has received a status of 501 (c) (3) in respect to the Internal Revenue Service. With this particular status, 20 percent of the funds of the organization can be utilized toward active lobbying, and all funds contributed to the organization receive the status of being tax deductible.

The firm of Dunn and Roth is providing the CCAM with accounting services. For the past year, operating expenses exceeded \$28,000, which was

provided partly by donations, membership fees, and other sources (\$22,481), and partly by an interest free loan of \$5,000.

A STUDY has begun to clarify the contribution of the arts to the economy of our state. The study is surveying some of the basic cash flows of the arts organizations, in particular investigating the amount of cash flow that they might receive from the state (in the form of grants, etc.) in comparison to the amount that they pay back (in the form of taxes, salaries, etc.).

This study hopes to involve about 2,000 arts organizations and even though not all of the questions will be answered by all involved, a 40 percent answer rate is expected.

CCAM has established close ties with similar organizations in other states, in particular New York State and Missouri. Through these close connections and interests, mutual goals can be accomplished.

DRINKING AND DRIVING CAN KILL A FRIENDSHIP

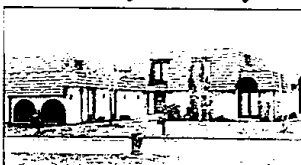
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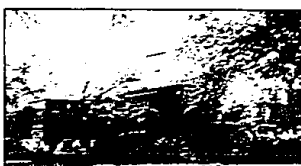
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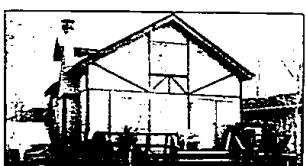
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