

Noted sculptor places more emphasis on edges

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

A first one-artist show in this area for Lyman Kipp continues at Robert L. Kidd Gallery through March 2. Kipp, an internationally recognized sculptor, studied at Cranbrook Academy of Art in the early 1950s and is now retiring as head of the Hunter College sculpture department after 24 years. And all the while that he's been teaching, he's also been making art.

He recalled walking into the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York City when he was in his mid 20s. "She wasn't excited about showing a young artist."

But she liked his work, gave him many one-persons shows and maintained a long friendship with him. She, too, had her first one-artist show at the Kidd Gallery five years ago when she was 80.

Kipp said when he learned of her death while in Cincinnati, he walked over to his car and immediately drove straight back to New York City to attend services for her.

While Parsons may have been one of the early ones to recognize his talent, many others have followed.

He is represented in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum, the Philadelphia Museum and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery of Buffalo.

HE IS known for large, painted outdoor sculptures. The only one on public property in this area is in front of the Grosse Pointe Library.

In the past, many of Kipp's smaller pieces have been maquettes for larger ones. The works in the Kidd Gallery show are different.

The painted, aluminum wall sculptures in this exhibit, all done within the last year, aren't intended to be ma-

quettes. They were conceived to always be exactly what they are right now.

Two, which he referred to, rather flippantly, as "totems" aren't wall hangings. They are corner or floor pieces with painted angle iron as the spine to which the other forms are attached.

SAYING, "I play with shapes," Kipp said they are aluminum, cut to shape, bolted together with the bolts sheared in back, polished and painted.

The paint, the type used in the automotive business, gives the works a fine, sleek gloss.

In addition to "arriving at edges" which he often paints in a high contrast color, in this show, Kipp has widened his palette from the bright primary colors usually associated with his work to groups of soft shades — grays, blacks and charcoals, and yellows, tans and beiges. The finishing on all of his work, almost an unto itself, shows the great care and precision used in all the steps.

This freedom from any evidence of workmanship allows these to be appreciated on a sophisticated level — the dramatic interplay of light and shadow, the subtle show of tension and release and the changing look from different vantage points as the edges recede or come sharply into focus.

The material itself diminishes in importance as the line, shape and color capture and hold the attention. The total focus is on the aesthetics without any distractions.

FREED from his teaching responsibilities and not needing a foundry, Kipp, a veteran traveler, who can set up on the site, will continue his travels.

He has spent time in Australia, New Zealand and Alaska and said his work has been extremely well received in

review

those locations. He did a sculpture for the University of Alaska.

He had two sculptures, "Blue Smoke" and "Red Wing" in a show of works by alumni at Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum several years ago.

Kipp was a founder/member of a group called Construct, composed of sculptors in all parts of the country who packaged and originated traveling shows of large sculptural works. Mark DiSavero was also a Construct member. Finally, the logistics of these major undertakings became too much of a burden and the group disbanded.

But, possibly as a result of their work along with the growing awareness of art in the United States, there is as Kipp agreed a growing interest in outdoor sculpture.

Kidd Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 107 Townsend, Birmingham.

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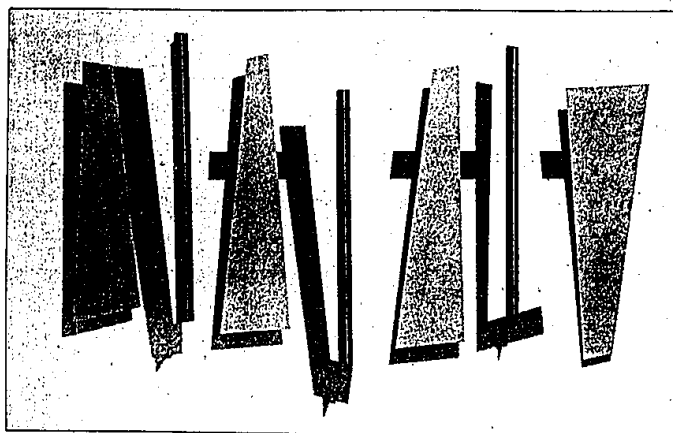
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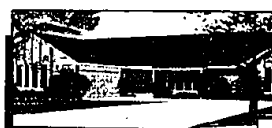
Courtesy McCoy's art photography

Lyman Kipp's sculpture, "Quick Silver," in subtle shades of gray and black with stronger color accenting the edges shows the strong architectural qualities found in all the works in his current show at Robert Kidd Galleries.

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Finding art deco

Continued from Page 1

to live there after completing his degree. He taught at Clarenceville High School in the late '60s and later furnished and operated two restaurants in Ann Arbor. He did both in the Art Deco style and as a result became interested in decorative items of that period.

A native of Michigan, Ann Dandron-Duke she has a background in theater.

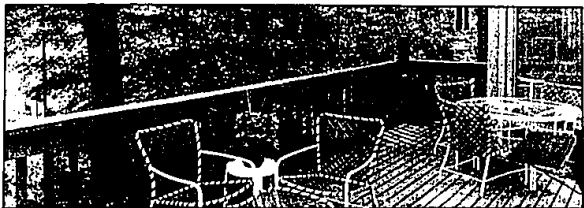
In addition to having people who buy for them in Europe and the United States, the couple travel to buy as well as to see what's going on in their field in other major metropolitan areas.

GALLERY hours are 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, until 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and until 5 p.m. Saturday, 185 N. Woodward, Birmingham.



BLOOMFIELD HILLS

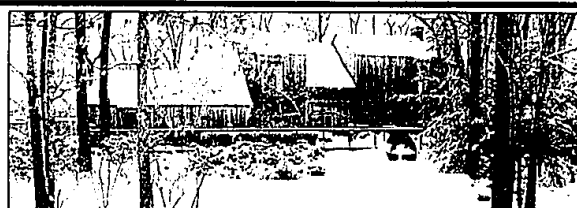
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