

ART ON THE EDGE



PHOTOS BY BILL HANSEN

Nature transformed: Kyoung Ae Cho gives new life to discarded materials like those incorporated in her large scale basketry.

She creates her art from throw-aways

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Sculptor Kyoung Ae Cho gathers abandoned and discarded objects to create new forms and new life through art. In collaboration with nature she bends and binds the honey locust stems, pine needles, vines, beeswax and other materials transforming them in the process.

Cho's work continues on exhibition in "Willing Disbelief" with artists Tom Phardel, Dennis Jones, Valerie Parks, Patricia Groenboom and Catherine Smith through June 25 at the Detroit Artists Market.

"I'm trying to show the beauty of nature, trying to give found objects that once had been chosen then discarded another life, an extension of life," Cho said. "I don't use artificial preservative so it can join the cycle of its life again. It grew and died. I see that as a cycle."

"Ever Green Window" consists of hundreds of pine needles collected from a discarded Christmas tree Cho found in her Birmingham neighborhood. She painstakingly glued the needles one by one onto the viewing area where glass had once occupied an old window frame.

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Kyoung Ae Cho

"I gather but is already there for some reason," Cho said. "The old Christmas tree, it's a shame to let that go. The frame is from an abandoned house in Detroit. The house is abandoned, so is the Christmas tree."

Cho's concept for creating the window reveals in simplicity.

"I was thinking of hope and a window frame for the future, giving new life to the pine needles and window frame. I want my work to be positive," she said.

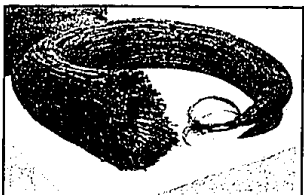
Gathering and collecting abandoned objects is very important to Cho's work because she searches not solely for materials, but ideas. Not until she collected vines discarded from the grounds of Birmingham First Presbyterian Church could she conceive and begin to evolve the large scale basketry on exhibit at the Detroit Artists Market.

"I work very spontaneously. I gather many things. It's an evolution," Cho said. "You don't have to paint. You can use natural materials. I saw these vines woven into a bird's nest. That was the form. Then I was thinking about space as far as the work, trying to understand the space here."

Vines of natural grays and browns woven round and round create a lyrical and flowing human-size nest that suggests a safe haven from the world.

The basis for Cho's art training began in South Korea where she was born. In 1986 she earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in textile from Duk-sung Women's University in Seoul. Shortly after coming to this country she studied fiber in the master of art program at California State University in Northridge, and in 1991 received a master of fine arts degree in fiber from Cranbrook Acad-

See EDGE, 7B



Self Portrait: Lyrical and flowing lines result from the union of honey locust stems bound with beeswax and Cho's own hair in "Portrait TV."

Groups find their own 'Faith'

In a way it's a mini music revolution . . . bands working together, taking charge of their careers. The end result has been Club of Faith, although the club part should not be confused with the clubs they perform in.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

During their careers, every band feels mistreated by club owners and booking agents. But Bent Lucy and a contingent of fellow local bands got fed up and did something about it. They banded together and formed their own venue and accompanying organization — Club of Faith.

"They (club owners and booking agents) were ruining everyone as far as pay, when to play and all that . . . what places to play, what times to play, what days to play . . . so the musicians got together to do it themselves . . . to have their own club," said Bent Lucy bassist Kirk Bleau.

The "club" is a loosely termed organization of bands, most of whom share rehearsal space in a mucky, graffiti-laden loft above a store in Royal.

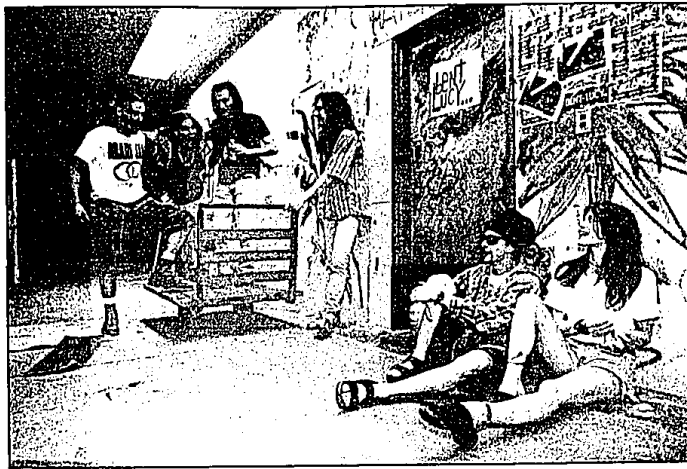
"It's totally like a dorm; we all hang out," said Geoff Coman, guitarist for the band Black Mell.

Together, the musicians — whose genres range from the industrial dance sounds of Code Industry to the alternative rock of the Vudu Hippies to the rock of Bent Lucy — held club nights on the floor where each band was showcased in a different room. Visitors — maxed at 700 — brought their own beverages and food.

"It's a cool idea; it got all these bands together that didn't have anything else to do on a Friday night," said Coman, a Detroit resident.

Visitors were given minimal rules. "They're told one rule when they come into the door: There's no destruction of people or property," said Bent Lucy guitarist and Club of Faith founder Robin "Gramps" Miller.

Lacking the proper licenses, the Club of Faith "nightclub" was closed by police. The bands, however, are allowed to use the facility to rehearse, its original purpose. Currently, Miller is finalizing plans for a new venue to house "Club of Faith Nights" starting in July. The revamped events will include performances by local bands and poets as well as artwork by local artists. He is also organizing a three-day music festival Labor Day weekend in Brooklyn, Mich.



BILL HANSEN

Common place: In the common hallway of the Club of Faith, members of various groups congregate outside Bent Lucy's suite, including club founder and Bent Lucy guitarist Robin Miller (in black T-shirt), bassist Kirk Bleau (leaning against wall), and drummer Michael Brasic (sitting down with hat).

His events, Miller said, offer more than what run-of-the-mill clubs do.

"We can offer them a cool place. It's not a bar. They can bring their own stuff. They'll see bands. It's not a bar where they're going to get harassed," he said.

It also allows the bands to play in front of a more attentive crowd than those at clubs where bands rank second to the dance music, he said.

"It immediately gets them some exposure and we're hoping in the

(Substation recently signed with RCA Records.)

Concurrent with forming Club of Faith, Bent Lucy has been able to generate some hype for itself. They, along with Blue Nation, the Rainbirds, Psycho Cafe and 17 Reasons Why have been accepted to play at Soundcheck, the Yamaha Music Showcase on Tuesday at the State Theatre in Detroit. The group was also featured in the July issue of Rip magazine.

Although Bent Lucy is only a year old, it brings along a host of talent. Brasic, a 21-year-old Farmington Hills resident, moved from Grand Rapids to Seattle when he was 17 to play with Kevin Wood, the brother of Mother Love Bone's deceased lead singer Andrew Wood. After the band broke up, he returned to Michigan while Kevin and Brian Wood formed the Fire Ants. Being in Seattle prior to the musical onslaught taught Brasic the ropes of the industry.

"I saw a lot of it in the making and that was schooling in itself," Brasic said. Miller is a former member of Concrete Rattle and vocalist Matthew Ruffino toured with Megadeth as a guitar understudy.

"Collectively, we probably got about 70 years experience playing

out at a young age. It might not mean much but it's a lot of time in a short period," said Miller, a Livonia Franklin High School graduate.

All this knowledge, Bleau said, will help the Club of Faith turn record company representatives' focus toward Detroit.

"What happened for Seattle is good for Seattle, but it's the same thing going on here. It's a matter of time before they get some recognition."

For more information about Club of Faith, call 733-5855. Bent Lucy performs at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, at Yamaha's Music Showcase. "Soundcheck" at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call 961-6451 for more information. They will also perform Friday, June 25, at Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck (876-6555); Saturday, June 26, at the Marquee, 8138 Seven Mile Road, Detroit, an EarthFest fundraiser. (366-2437); Wednesday, June 30, at The Ritz, 104 and Gratiot, Roseville (778-8404); Friday, July 2, at The Gallery, 22765 Van Dyke, Warren (767-6600); Saturday, July 24, at Finnegan's Pub, 2655 Woodward, Detroit (831-8070); and Saturday, Aug. 14, at EarthFest at the State Fairgrounds (886-7880).

STREET BEATS

long run that we'll have the upper hand on the clubs and lead our own way with it," said Michael Brasic, Bent Lucy's drummer.

Johnny Angel, lead singer of the band Substation, agreed.

"We're going to take this thing to the point where they (club owners) are going to be coming to us," said Angel, who also runs his recording studio, Tone Zone, out of the Club of Faith loft.

"It's a power of numbers. Now you're part of a family that's always on the move," he added.

Apparently, he's correct. Out of the 27 bands in Club of Faith, about a quarter have had record label interest, Bent Lucy being one of them.



Koooon!!!: Carving a niche for themselves musically are The Del-Kats — Gino (from left), Adam, Johnny Loveless and Jeffrey Lee.

Coolness comes to The Del-Kats

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

When a friend asked Jeffrey Lee if he wanted to buy his stand-up bass, he didn't imagine he'd be playing it on stage one day. He had other plans for it.

"I thought it would look cool hangin' on my wall," he said, taking a drag on a cigarette.

But the more he looked at it, the more he was intrigued.

"I started takin' a couple pointers from his band," he said. Now, Lee and his pals are an integral part of The Del-Kats cool live show. Sometimes,

it's not because of his talent either. "I think I have more fun jumpin' on it," Lee said.

Although his baby blue bass takes a lot of beating, he's still quite close to it.

"It's cooler than girls, cooler than cars, and cooler than my friends — some of them," said Lee to appease the rest of the foursome.

"That laid-back fun sort of feeling is what comes across during shows by The Del-Kats. Rhythm guitarist Johnny Loveless thanks the audience for most of the band's live talent."

See DEL-KATS, 7B

IN CONCERT

Tuesday, June 15

10,000 MANIACS
With World Party at Meadow Brook Music Festival on campus of Oakland University. Walton and Squirrel roads, Rochester. (alternate) rock SOLD OUT
596-8555

MADCAT AND KAME, DEADDEAT SOCIETY AND BIG DAVE
Part of benefit concert for Michigan Friends Center at The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)
761-1451

THE CHAMBERLAIN'S DINH
With Beets at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
596-8555

JAMES SPENCER'S BLUES EXPLOSION
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
596-8555

YAMAHA SOUNDCHECK
With Bent Lucy, Blue Nation, 17 Reasons Why, Psycho Cafe, and Rainbirds compete

for the chance to win \$25,000 at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit.
961-6450

Wednesday, June 16

TAJ MAHAL
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)
761-1451

WORRYSTONE
With Happy As Clams at Avin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (alternative rock)
832-0589

DIG
With Vudu Hippies at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
596-8555

Thursday, June 17

NAJER
Chene Park, Chene at East Jefferson, one mile east of the Renaissance Center in Detroit.
393-0068

TRAIL MIX
New music night with DJs Greg Scott and Bleeboob at the Majestic, 4140 Woodward, Detroit.
833-9700

JEFF BURTON'S EAST LANSING ALL-STARS
With Big Blue Couch at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

LEGS UP
With Amalia at Psycho's Lounge, 2932

Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-0909

BLACK MALL
With Molesty Crush at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (dark alternative rock/ethereal, moody rock)
996-8555

UNPLUGGED BLUES JAM
Featuring Robert Noll at the Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac.
334-7411

COOPALOCCA
Benefit for Fundable food co-op featuring Mary McGuire, Thunderpant Choir, The Volebats, and Red 2 at the Magic Bag Theatre, 22918 Woodward Ave., north of Nine Mile, Farmdale.
544-3030

Friday, June 18
PAUL GLASSE QUARTET
La Casa Music Series at Birmingham Unitar-

See IN CONCERT, 8B