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can the various ethnic groups peacefully coexist.

That question was the motivation behind Cynthia Phillips' trip to Israel in 1997 to film a documentary on the exhibit.

"It's very difficult to separate the political from the search for identity," said Phillips of Ann Arbor, whose documentary is currently in post-production. She expects the film to be shown on PBS stations across the country.

Phillips' documentary examines the role and influence of artists in peace-making and building communities. It's a precarious path that draws from the war-torn past and hopes of a peaceful future.

"The arts are a vehicle for showing what can't be communicated verbally," said Phillips, who is also an agricultural economist specializing in early warning systems of famine in Africa.

"If people can find a road to each other through art, it's a way to maintain a dialogue," she said.

Stories behind the art

While "Identity, Thoughts and Visions" doesn't offer any cutting-edge art or provocative images, it does present an overview of the current range of art being created in Israel, especially in the artist community north of Tel Aviv.

Clearly, appreciating the art is only half the story. The exhibit is foremost about the story behind the creation of the art.

And several of the stories offer compelling visions.

In Ayana Friedman's photographs of Arab homes abandoned in 1948 — the year of Israeli independence — there's a common sense of despair. Friedman, a second-generation Holocaust survivor, draws a parallel between the Jews forced from

their homes during the reign of the Nazis and displaced Arabs.

That might not be a popular view among Jews, but it does build a bridge among various cultural perspectives.

The exhibit doesn't soft-peddle views of the Israeli government. Anton Beiderman's several dozen small-scale drawings of past and present Israeli leaders are framed and placed on the floor. The effect is to deflate the official Israeli-state line.

Several works focus on themes of everyday life, such as Ahmed Kannan's wooden sculptures and Natour Camel's bold colors of religious symbols.

"I'm interested in other cultures," said artist Sharabi. "I don't want to convert people to my religion. The way of life is to learn to deal and accept other people."

For many Israeli artists, that simple precept is the resounding call of the Promised Land.

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For first place winner Yoriko Hirose Cronin, "Flight," a Japanese woodblock print, represents the opposing themes of tradition and technology present in her native Japan.

"I see two opposing themes existing in their lives in many ways. Their struggle to search for an identity as Japanese and their longing for entirely different stimuli from outside of Japan," Cronin explained in her artist's statement.

Ron Ribant, the second-place winner for his mixed-media painting "Still Life with Water Bottle," said he entered the competition at the last minute, but he's glad he did.

"There's lots of energy, but not a lot of opportunity," he said, regarding Michigan's art scene.

Cynar sees the CMA exhibition as well as the art community supports itself from within. "It's important for the art centers to keep together. There aren't a lot of commercial places to show."

Road show

After the CMA exhibit closes at Paint Creek on Sept. 17, it will travel to the Daimler-Chrysler headquarters in Auburn Hills. The exhibit will be displayed from Sept. 27 to Nov. 6.

Artists stretch limits, question 'what is art?'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Brian Nelson readily admits to not knowing if his works are sculpture or even art, for that matter.

To gaze around the Detroit Contemporary Gallery where his work is exhibited, one would beg to differ.

From the video of rustling trees projected on a horizontal canvas on wheels to a stainless steel-framed print of a perfect blue sky, the works become, in Nelson's words, "a different kind of vehicle for the image or idea."

Nelson's works, frequently on wheels or incorporating circular forms, rekindle experiences from his life and attempt to spark memories in viewers.

"My work doesn't try to dictate an experience," said Nelson, a Livonia resident who earned an M.F.A. in sculpture from Michigan State University. "It's important that you remember your own experiences and those can be good or bad."

In distinctive installations, Nelson along with Jared Wilson and Ron Ribant stretch the limits of artistic expression and inevitably offer their own take on the age-old question, "What is art?"

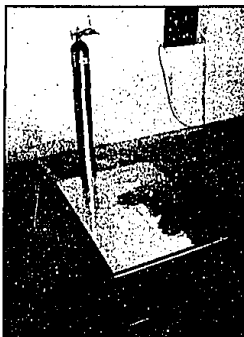
In addition to Nelson's stainless steel sculptures, Wilson's

Detroit Contemporary

What: Exhibitions by Brian Nelson, Jared Wilson and Ron Ribant.

When: Through Sunday, Aug. 29. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday.

Where: 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., (two blocks north of Warren, three blocks south of I-94, three blocks west of Trumbull). Detroit, (313) 898-4ART.



Exhale: Brian Nelson makes a statement about the environment in this sculpture, which was created from welded stainless steel, a modified oxygen tank, nasal cannula, video projection and VCR.

"Sound Installation" is just that — sound. Beats and counterbeats throb through the brick walled space.

Ribant's "New & Used Paintings" addresses the need to preserve nature. Using text with landscape imagery, Ribant's carved wood words warn of "poison" and the need for "preservation."

Several of Nelson's works demand the viewer's attention, especially "For Julie and I (Eythrocates)" and "Monday, Jan. 10, 1988 Memory Loss." In these sculptures, Nelson frames his ideas, including his interpretation of a perfect day, in stainless steel. His other sculptures also express various experiences from his life. Mobile in nature, the images are a reminder of time passing and how our activities mark "the specific meaning

of a place or event."

In "Her Breath, the Wind, to Fix the Image in Memory I Exhale (for Latri)," Nelson lends the viewer into pondering the state of the environment and life. The video projection of rustling trees is centered on a horizontal canvas, which is really the top of what looks like a medical or industrial cart. Alongside, Nelson places a modified oxygen tank and nasal cannula.

The sculpture "Dutifully Per-

formed to Ward off Some Future Event" also uses a bed of a stainless steel table as a canvas for a video in which scenarios alternate: water tediously dripping from a faucet into the sink, and someone ritually washing their hands.

Nelson, who teaches at Center for Creative Studies, has exhibited his work extensively throughout the metro area, including the Detroit Artists Market and the Creative Arts Center in Pontiac.

Revisit '50s, '60s at fest

A marathon sock hop, rock and roll bands, hot rods, classic cars and motorcycles, and Little Eva's "loco-motion," are some of the highlights of the "Fabulous '50s and '60s Festival." Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 26-29 at St. Mary's Preparatory, Orchard Lake at Commerce roads in Orchard Lake.

Little Eva, whose recording of "The Loco-motion" skyrocketed her to stardom will perform on Sunday.

The festival opens 6 p.m. Thursday-Friday; noon Saturday-Sunday. Call (248) 693-0530 for information.

On Thursday, Aug. 26, the

Danny Van Show opens at 7 p.m. At 9 p.m. the Marilyn Monroe look-alike contest will be held.

Friday, Aug. 27, Moose and Da Sharks play at 7 p.m. A hot rod cruise in will be held 4-9 p.m. The marathon all-night sock hop begins at 11 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 28 is variety jacket and school sweater day. The Fantastics perform 7-11:30 p.m.

On Sunday, Little Eva, Dickie Lee, The Sharkettes and a Buddy Holly impersonator begin performing at 4 p.m.

There will also be food and refreshments and carnival rides.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts

celebrate michigan artists

Flight, Yoriko Hirose Cronin, CMA first place winner 1999

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 7-9PM
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AUGUST 20 - SEPTEMBER 17, 1999

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The VIETNAM WALL EXPERIENCE

Southeast Michigan • August 27-29, 1999

A Time to Remember, to Reflect, to Heal.

Every year thousands of people travel to visit the Vietnam War Memorial Wall to remember, to reflect and to heal. The Wall is a powerful emotional experience. The Vietnam Wall Experience—a 240-foot near-size replica of the famous Vietnam Memorial Wall will be on display in Southeast Michigan for three days only.

- All are welcome—admission is free
- The Wall is open 24 hours beginning Friday, August 27 at 8 a.m. to Sunday, August 29 at 6 p.m.
- Located at Christian Memorial Cemetery, 521 East Hamlin Road, Rochester Hills (approximately two miles north of M-59 and just east of Rochester Road)

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 27	Saturday, August 28
Flag Raising Ceremony—8:00 a.m.	Flag Raising Ceremony—8:00 a.m.
Opening Ceremony—7:00 p.m.	Wreath Laying Ceremony—6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 29

Sunrise Interdenominational Worship Service and Flag Raising Ceremony—8:00 a.m.
Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Motorcade—12:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Closing Ceremony—3:00 p.m.

Information Line: 810-997-7797

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