

**Max Leser**  
Coffee Table, 1983,  
structural glass and stainless  
steel, 40.6 x 91 x 91cm.



Photo: Kim Crowder

**Ian Symons**  
1. Mug 1981, ht 8cm  
2. Teapot 1982, ht 14.5cm  
3. Mug 1982, ht 8.3cm  
4. Teapot 1982, ht 15cm  
5. Mug 1983, ht 7.4cm

All pieces are red earthenware with underglaze colours, scuffito, and transparent glaze.



Photo: T E Moore

**Kai Chan**  
Lost Paradise Found  
1983, dogwood branches,  
mixed threads, 70 x 70 x  
170cm.



**Barbera Astman**  
in out and about  
1982, mixed media,  
(linoleum, wood, plastics)  
22.9 x 114.9 x 22.9cm.

one detects an English influence, yet this prolific artist, not yet fully graduated, forms and decorates his vessels and plates with a confidence that belies his years.

I first saw Kai Chan's work at a Canadian exhibition at the opening of the Barbican Arts Centre in London. His handling of natural materials made an impression on me then, and when I again saw his finely crafted wooden sculptures in Toronto, I was taken by their tautness and subtlety.

Barbara Astman is probably the most widely known artist of the four. Her background in the fine arts could (for some) eliminate her from this exhibition, but the design and craft elements are such an important and integral part of her constructions that I feel the inclusion of her *Places* series in this exhibition to be right.

My selection, centring as it does on the fine-art end of the crafts, leaves out many popular disciplines, including Canadian folk art and North American Indian art. The sad fact is that this exhibition could not cope with such diversity. (Also, the other disciplines are covered by other exhibitions organised by Canada House.)

I do not find the traditional crafts inferior. Indeed, the contrary would be true, because again there is a similarity with the situation in the UK, where in recent years there has been a return to, and a renewal of, interest in the traditional crafts. ♦

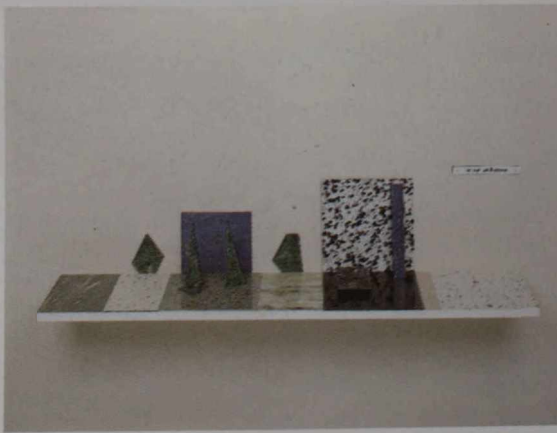


Photo: T E Moore