

B.F.A. '80: the year in review

Art review by Michaleen Marte-Elabdi

With the coming of spring there is a time to reflect on a hard winter's work. The Bachelor of Fine Arts annual exhibition at the Students' Union Art Gallery serves just that purpose. In it are the rewards of many months of art student blood, sweat and tears.

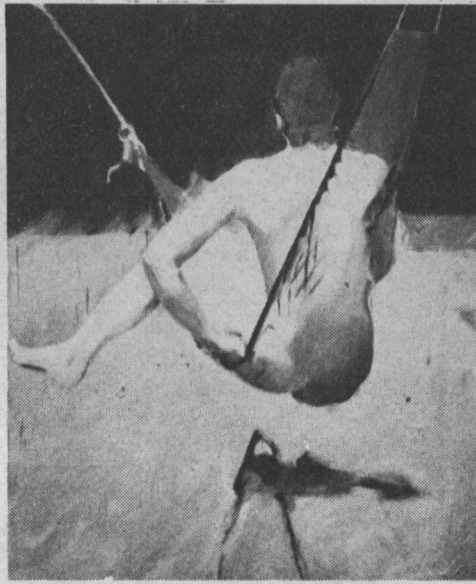
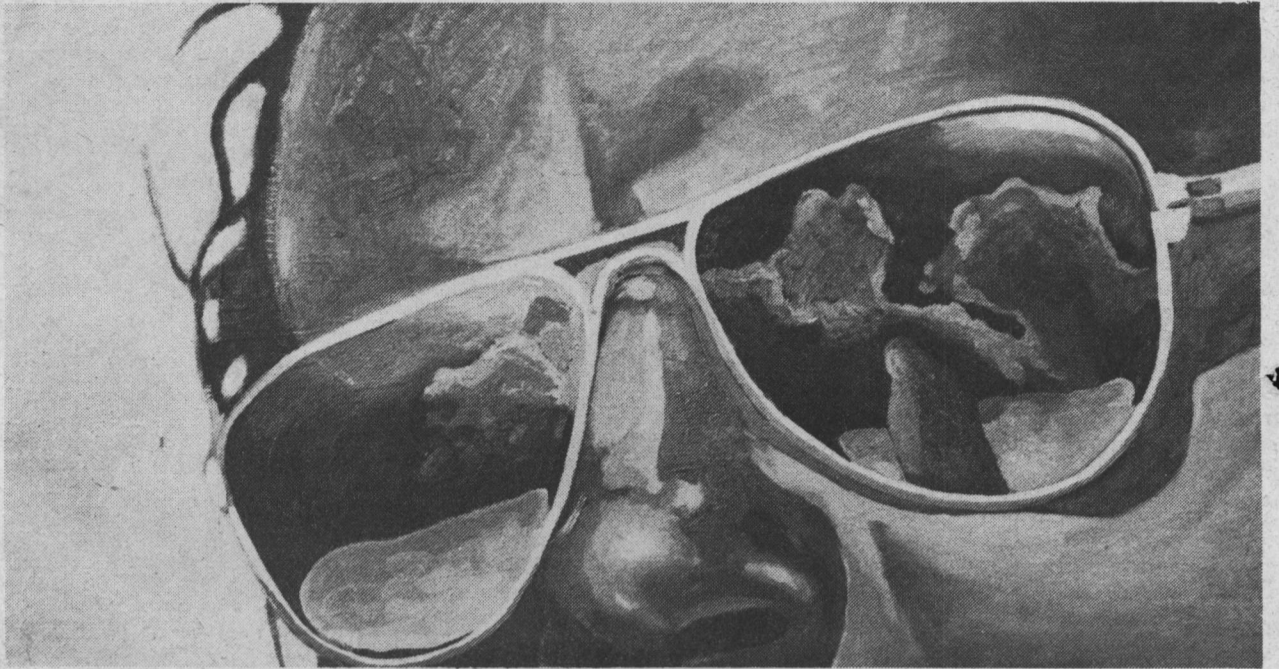
This year there are 29 students who will graduate from the Fine Arts Faculty. The exhibition presents every form of specialization in the faculty which includes printmaking, sculpture, industrial design, visual communication design and sculpture.

In printmaking I found the works of Rebecca Aronyk and Lorraine New of note. Aronyk's lithograph and etching have a delicate and timeless quality about them. They are like small kernels of life on a desolate landscape. New gives us two lithographs composed of gaseous colors. I call them the "Solar Rays" — since the effect is very similar to photos of the sun's surface.

As expected, photography is included in the show. A number of people have shown their studies of the human figure and "still life". The photos in a series particularly caught my eye. Bob Edwards has come up with some very candid and compelling portraits in his "WW I Veterans". Caroline Szady's assault sequence is rather gripping. The stills tell the story of a violent event, much like a reel of film, but in dramatic, blurred images.

The visual communication design area also includes items of a commercial or utilitarian nature. There are good examples in this category. Caroline Szady shows further ambition in her design of book covers for the works of Adgar Allen Poe and posters commemorating the Bologna Children's Book Festival. I also enjoyed John Nelson's color illustrations for volumes of Norse Mythology. Leila Nachtigall produced some very effective greeting cards in combining water color with haiku poetry. Annemarie Fodi presented us with a cooking product ad., delivered with the best humor of the show.

Industrial design is always of interest. Maureen Crawford probably has designed the best drafting table. Made of maple with a simplicity of form, it is attractive to the eye as well as highly serviceable. Mario Bali gave us a unique product in his calendar for the blind, (the only problem is there is no way to record important events in the month!) John Nelson's enlargement/reduction viewer appears effective and convenient to use. One only wishes these things could be demonstrated to us gallery viewers. I might add that the discussion for many of these items is too technical, leaving non-design people clueless.

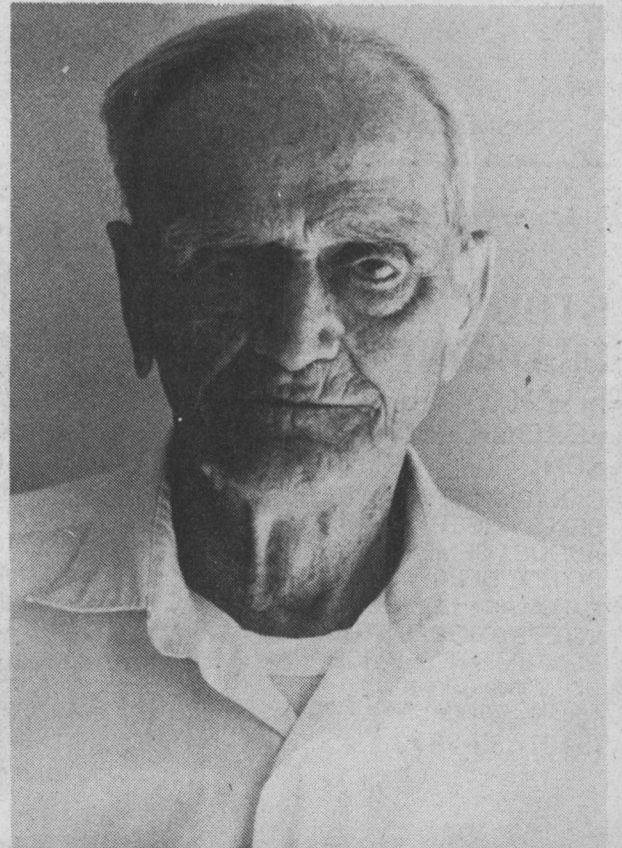
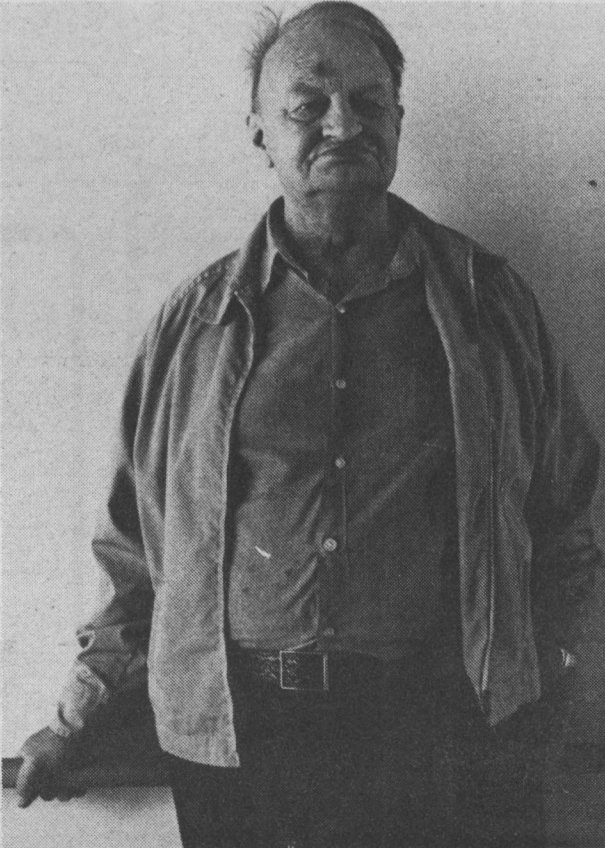
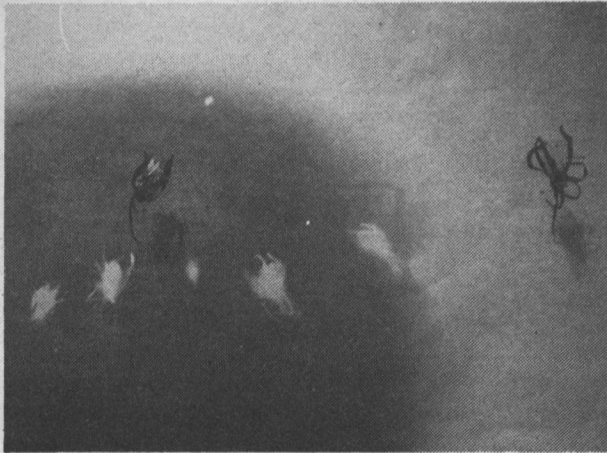


Top: Ed Duchoslav "Untitled"
Center: Don Mitchell "Hammock"
Left: Rebecca Aronyk "Untitled"
Bottom three: Bob Edwards "WWI Veterans"

In the areas of painting and sculpture I was mildly disappointed. There was sculpture in both wood and metal by Jacquie P. Nuytten and Penny Links. It all seemed unimaginative and uninspired. It made me hate untitled works even more (does the artist have no concept in mind?)

In painting I found Don Mitchell a stand-out with his two nudes, especially the rather beautiful "Hammock". Amber Anderson showed great passion in the wild colors of her people. Maggie Clough's "Edging Pool" was the most pleasing color field study. I liked the strange perspective of Ed Duchoslav, such as in "Plane Marbles". The rest was quite simply a bore, beginning with Robinson's "The Red Boob" and ending with Leslie Sharpe's signpost to Sartre.

So you've heard the annual story of artistic toil and trouble. Some might say that the BFA show is a necessary evil. But I would rather look at it as the dabblings of the young and aspiring.



Thursday Thursday

CINEMA SUB Theatre

Mar. 31, April 1, a double feature of *Reefer Madness* and *Wild Weed*. Both shows at 7 and 9:30 pm.

April 2, 7 and 9:30 pm, *Cousine Cousine* - 1975, France, 95 min.

April 3, 7 and 9:30 pm, *Revenge of the Pink Panther* with Peter Sellers and Dyan Cannon.
Provincial Museum Theatre, 12845 - 102 Ave.

Mar. 27 - 28, 8 pm. The National Film Board presents *Going the Distance*, the official commemorative film of the recent Edmonton Commonwealth Games, and an Academy Award nominee this year in the feature length documentary category. Admission is free.

MUSIC Convocation Hall

Mar. 28, 8 pm. The University's Concert Choir, a mixed ensemble of more than 70 singers, will present its annual spring concert. Under the direction of Larry Cook, the choir will sing works by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Kodaly, Byrd and Canadian composers Healey Willan, Kelsey Jones, Barrie Cabena and Keith Bissell. Tickets for the concert are \$2 for students and senior citizens, and \$4 for others and are available at HUB, the Department of Music (3-82 Fine Arts Building), from choir members and at the door.

SUB Theatre

Mar. 29, 7 and 9:30 pm; Don MacLean returns to Edmonton. Tickets are \$7.50 at HUB, BASS outlets and at the door.

Mar. 28, 7 and 9:30 pm. The South Side Folk Club and Keen Kraft Music present *The Chieftains from Ireland*. Tickets are \$8 at HUB, Mike's, and West Den, and \$9 at the door. Good luck in getting any.