

SU Gallery makes it tough to keep hands off



by Alison Thomson
Photos by Russ Sampson

"... the humble, the modest, where does beauty lie if not in these qualities." This quote from *The Unknown Craftsman* typifies the exhibition, Artisan '78, which is now on display in the Students' Union Art Gallery.

Artisan '78 is an exhibition of the works of Canadian craftsmen who are using a wide variety of materials and techniques. One example are the quilts which hang from the stands and walls, dominating the rooms with their vivid colours and primitive designs. A particularly attractive example of this is Nova Scotian Polly Green's sampler quilt.

The quilts and quilted jackets are not the only crafts comprising fabrics. A tapestry portraying simple animal and Inuit figures in brilliant colour by Elizabeth Angrnatquah was perhaps my favourite of the exhibits. In contrast to the solid colours and simple design of this tapestry is a silk batik by Ann Suzuki entitled *Grey Spaces*. The beauty of this piece of fabric comes from its swirls of soft gray shades.

Glassware is another strength of the exhibition. There are examples of stained glass, as well as bowls and vases. Perhaps the best of these is Calgarian Robert Held's glass bowl with its translucent, delicate colours.

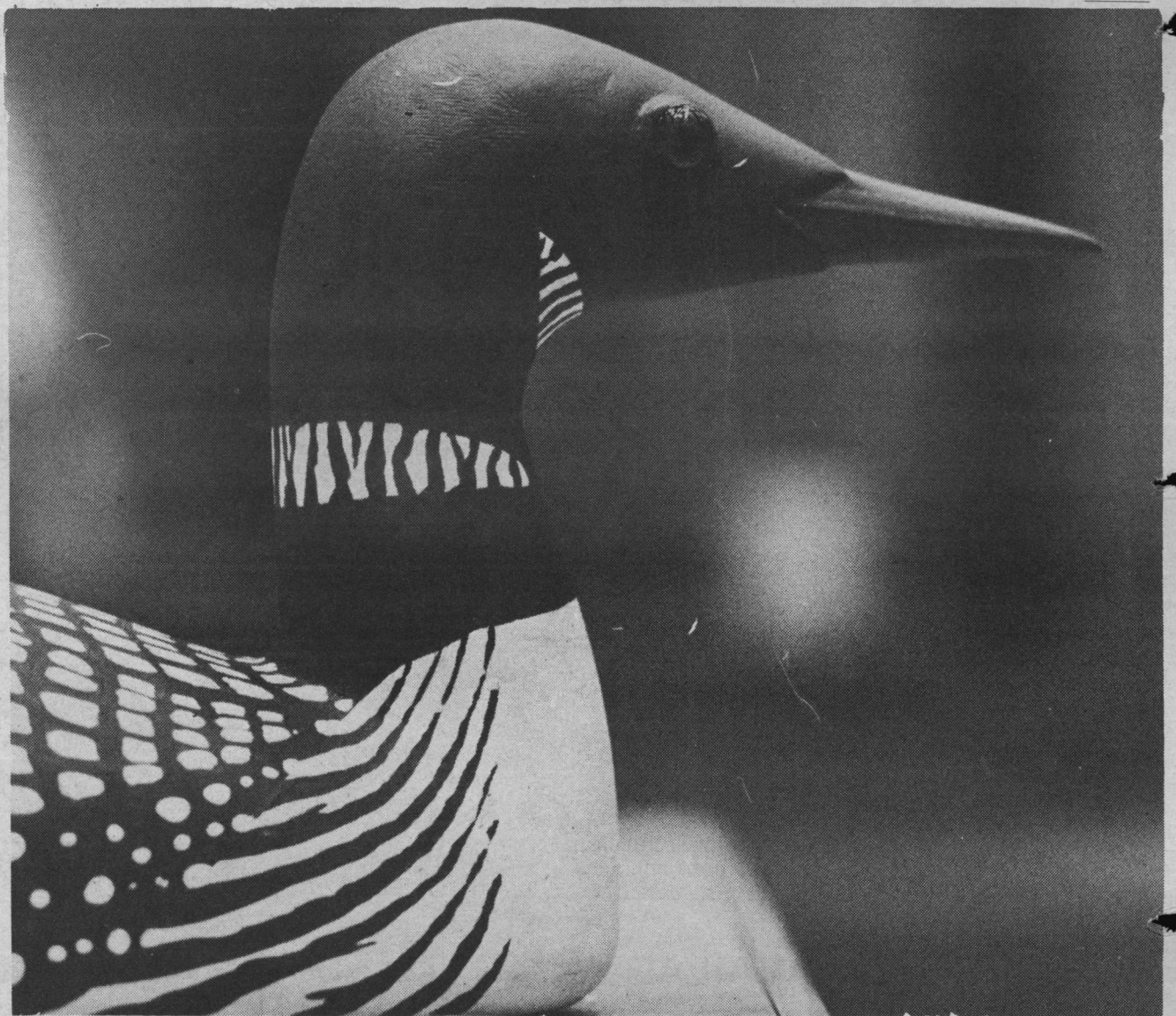
"It is important that the design be good, if only because, unlike the fine arts, it is inescapable." (David Pye, *Nature of Design*) A metal bracelet with inlays of stone by Donald Stuart illustrates this aphorism, and is an example of an artist creating a design which is peculiarly appropriate to his materials.

Among the other exhibits are woodcarvings, weaving, and beadwork. There is also a stoneware flute by Tony Bloom. Two camping knives by Adam Smith exemplify the beauty which is found in utilitarian objects: clean, simple, and suited to their purpose. Because of the many textures, it takes a major act of willpower not to touch these exhibits.

If this varied exhibition has a weakness, it is perhaps the leatherwork — unless you are fond of briefcases.

Artisan '78 will be in the SU Art Gallery until September 23. Do take a moment out from these hectic first few weeks to drop in and look around: it is an unusual, well displayed exhibit.

tapestry of animal and Inuit figures by Elizabeth Angrnatquah.
Right — an example of quilting. Butterfly by Beverly Ried from B.C.



Loon Decoy by John McClelland of Newport, N.S.

The further adventures of SUB Theatre

There will be big changes at the Students' Union Building Theatre this year, and Peter Feldman is absolutely thrilled. He is the theatre manager, and has been since March 1979.

Feldman has been in the entertainment business since he was 18. In 1975 he directed the first three Stage West shows when that theatre opened in the Mayfield Inn. Since then he worked as a free-lance actor until taking the job with SUB Theatre. His most recent project was the taping of four C.B.C. radio shows called *The Further Adventures of Feldman* which will be run on the national network starting October 2.

Feldman works with a full time staff consisting of an assistant, a production supervisor, and three technicians. He enjoys his job because it combines the creativity of an artistic director with the responsibilities of a theatre manager. He decides what will be shown at SUB Theatre, but all policies and capital expenditures must be cleared with his bosses who are the members of the students' union executive.

Anyone familiar with the movies shown at SUB Theatre during the last few years will recognize this year's upcoming changes. SU Cinema will be running a

mini-series of movies which will be grouped together thematically. For example, during September and October, three thrillers will be shown: *The French Connection*, *Sleuth*, and *The Day of the Jackal*. Other mini-series will feature actors such as Jack Nicholson, the Marx Brothers, Marlon Brando, and Montgomery Clift, and directors like Fellini, Antonioni, and Billy Wilder. The emphasis will not be on newer, more commercial movies as it has been in the past. Perhaps anticipating a question, Feldman talked about the repertory cinema Frank Grisdale has introduced at the Princess Theatre. He says he and Grisdale came up with the same idea at about the same time: "In some ways I feel miffed that Frank beat me to it, but in other ways I'm not..." He admires Grisdale for doing a good job, and adds that his theatre is not trying to compete with the Princess.

One popular feature from last year will not be continued. This year, movies will not be shown at midnight. Unfortunately there was a minority of cinema goers who "buggered it for everyone else." Feldman regrets the loss of this time-slot, but says the theatre can't afford the cost of cleaning up the mess

that a few people make.

There will be four or five fewer shows presented by SU Concerts this year, but Feldman says that the artists who are appearing, are of "uniformly high quality." There will be "no dog shows." Feldman is excited that his theatre will be bringing in three artists who have never before appeared in Edmonton: Dave Brubeck, Craig Russel, and Sarah Vaughan.

Besides presenting its own movies and concerts, SUB Theatre also rents out its facilities to outside promoters, and to student union clubs who are given a financial break. Depending on whether they charge admission or not, these clubs pay 50 or 40% of what outside promoters would pay. The theatre also operates with an Alberta Culture grant which subsidizes artist's fees in the concert series. There is a 50% subsidy for Albertan artists, 30% for non-Albertan Canadians, and 20% for non-Canadians.

SU Cinema opens with *The French Connection* and *Sleuth* on September 10 and 11, and SU Concerts first presentation is the National Arts Centre's production of *Waiting For the Parade*, on September 21 and 22.