

abstract childhood designs

by Nancy Bevan

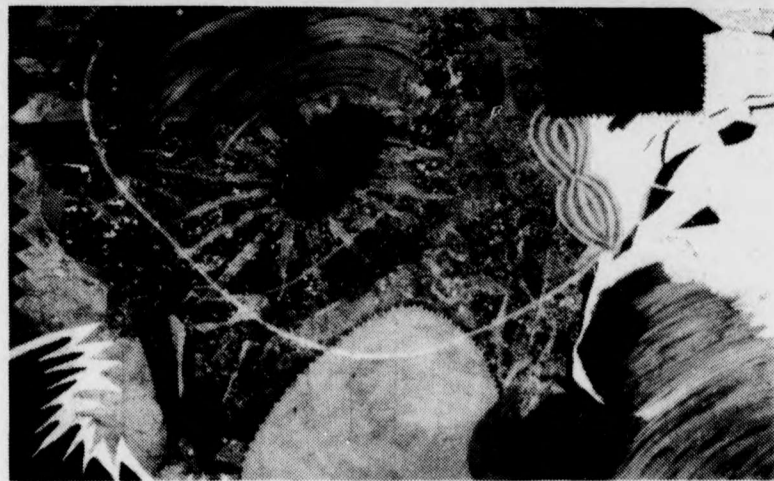
It's dynamic, it's fascinating, it's colourful, it's paper! But is art?

Twelve contemporary German painters have set out to prove that *Painting on Paper* (Art Gallery of Ontario exhibition on until November 12) is to be taken just as seriously as painting on traditional canvas or panel. Far from being just preliminary sketches, these energetic paintings are fully finished examples of how these artists responded to the challenges that paper poses.

Wait a minute. This looks like the kind of abstract paintbrush doodling a six year-old wants taped to the refrigerator! A second, much closer look, however, brings into focus intricate, sophisticated plays of colour and texture, particularly achieved in Imi Knoebel's acrylics and in Emil Schumacher's work with gouache on paper.

Gotthard Graubner's enormous acrylic washes aren't kidstuff either. Subtle interplays of pigment and light create a radiant fuchsia in "Vezely," a fluorescent shimmer in "Firebird" and the gossamer pastels of "Back Light." Seen together, these works comprise a truly impressive, almost overpowering, display.

Hanging nearby, in sharp juxtaposition to Graubner, I was enticed by a whimsical series of five untitled pieces by Sigmar Polke (1987) in ink, wash and lacquer. Floral traceries, reminiscent of ornate wrought-iron, are contrasted with comic book dots that surprise an anaemic turkey in one piece, and reappear in another in



Michael Buthe's "Le vita secredo dos plantes"

(top) and Markus Lupertz's "aus der Folge 'New York' Fenster'" (bottom).



an informal play on positive and negative space.

Around the corner, I discovered some paintings that had quasi-recognizable forms. These included works by Markus Lupertz, who painted his own frames camouflage-style and Paco Knoeller, "Monolog I" (1986). Jurgen Klauke's techniques in "Overhead Bicycle Kick" and in "Vision" draw elements from native Indian or perhaps African imagery. The latter work also seems to incorporate more cosmopolitan images — a misty figure embraces, well, two large double dildos (or maybe it's just my Freudian slip showing).

I was most attracted to the works which had not been put behind a glass frame. It was easier to develop a more intimate relationship with these "naked" works, such as Fred Thieler's "Just Moving" (1980) in mixed technique on cardboard collage. Still-shiny colour pooled in random creases and the raggedy edges-on-edges of torn paper overlay were inviting. I wanted very much to reach out and . . . "Absolutely not," the security guard admonished, it's "very vulnerable."

The lack of glass is critical to what I consider to be the most outstanding work of the exhibition. Michael Buthe's galaxy sized

"The Secret Life of the Planets" (mixed technique on paper, 1979) portrays a kaleidoscope, Alice-in-Wonderland universe, while the colossal dimensions of the piece, 372 cm x 448 cm, assure it an intrinsic vibrancy and strength that glass would only have subdued. This was true for the other works left "free," which were also the most successful. The spontaneity of the paintings was unrestrained, and seemed to me to be more faithful to the impulsive nature in which they were created. So enjoy your abstract childhood designs. They could be art — just don't serve them under glass.

theatre: phase III

by Laura Martins

Professor Jeff Henry, chairperson of York's theatre department, has reason to be optimistic these days. With Phase III, the newest addition to the faculty of fine arts almost completed, Henry's vision of an integrated faculty is becoming a not-so-distant reality.

Henry, now in his 18th year with the department, recalls the



Jeff Henry

changes in the theatre department since its inception in 1968. "The department really moved from a very liberal arts type of programme to a much more focused programme," said Henry.

Another major change in the department is the move into the new Phase III building. At the moment, only staff and faculty offices occupy the building but, by the end of the year, the production and costume shops will be ready along with the performance studios and separate facilities for the film department. Henry has anticipated these changes with great enthusiasm.

"I think its extraordinary and exciting that we have a new building. For many years the theatre department has been scattered all

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COUNCIL OF THE YORK STUDENT FEDERATION INC.		STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1989	
AS OF APRIL 30, 1989		1989	1988
BALANCE SHEET AS AT APRIL 30, 1989			
	1989	1988	
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash	\$54,054	\$34,751	
Accounts receivable	8,722	3,527	
Inventory	1,923	2,029	
Prepaid expenses	363	442	
	65,062	\$40,749	
Fixed assets (Note 3)	16,590	4,189	
	\$81,652	\$44,938	
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$27,051	\$46,495	
Due to York University	12,286	11,082	
	39,337	57,577	
SURPLUS			
Surplus (deficit)	4,315	(12,639)	
Reserve for legal costs (Note 4)	10,000	-	
Reserve for students' centre projects (Note 5)	28,000	-	
	42,315	(12,639)	
	\$81,652	\$44,938	
Approved by The Council:			
	<i>Peter Domb</i>	Director	
		Director	
STATEMENT OF SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1989		STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1989	
	1989	1988	
Surplus (deficit) at beginning of year	\$(12,639)	\$ 1,171	
Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue) for the year	54,954	(13,810)	
Surplus (deficit) at end of year	42,315	(12,639)	
Transfer to reserve for students' centre projects	(28,000)	-	
Transfer to reserve for legal costs	(10,000)	-	
Surplus (deficit) at end of year	\$ 4,315	\$(12,639)	
Cash provided from (used in)			
Operating activities			
Excess of expenditure over revenue (revenue over expenditure)	\$54,954	\$(13,810)	
Adjustments for non-cash items			
Depreciation	4,409	1,047	
Other changes in working capital	(23,250)	3,073	
	36,113	(9,690)	
Investing activities			
Purchase of fixed assets	(16,810)	(5,236)	
Increase (decrease) in cash	19,303	(14,926)	
Cash at beginning of year	34,751	49,677	
Cash at end of year	\$54,054	\$34,751	