

Students steal the show

Review by Richard Simon
Weekender staff writer



"Pea Pod," a vinyl construction by Leslie Halterman of Chula Vista, finds an admirer in Darlene Rubich.

A visit to an art gallery is generally an adventure, for it is impossible to predict what one will find.

Sometimes, to cite one example, one encounters wads of paper tossed into a corner, offered as "a happening."

On other occasions, one encounters art, like an obscene ceramic pie at a recent art show here, whose primary — if not sole — purpose is to shock.

But there are those occasions — and they make gallery going worthwhile — when there is a sense of discovery.

And that is the case with the show, "Discovery '73," on view through July 14 in the splendid new home of the California Arts Commission at 808 O St., and in the Governors Conference Room at the Capitol.

"Discovery '73" consists of 95 works of art by high school students

the form, and the chaste inlay design completes a truly harmonious whole.

NOT ALL the work is as classically inspired as Chapin's bottle. Leslie Halterman, a 12th grade student at Bonita High School in Chula Vista, has asserted a true comic invention in what might be a chair, but is certainly a splendid art object.

It is "Pea Pod," a facetious replica of the vegetable in a perfectly pea-colored vinyl.

Something of that same spirit is caught in "Old Leather Revival," a clay, leather and cloth sculpture by Robin Harris, a 12th grade student at San Marin High School in Novato.

Easily one of the most eloquent works in the show is "Family Man," an etching by Evelyn Kay, a 12th grade student at Woodland High School in Woodland.

The etching consists of a finely-modeled head of an old man (who

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Janet Fraser, a 12th grade student at Rio Americano High School here, proves that sports is no male preserve with her dramatic pencil drawing.

Fine arts

throughout the state, and the show is a revelation.

IT WOULD be unreasonable to expect such a high degree of perception coupled with technical skill by those making their first acquaintance with the fine arts. And yet, the perception and the skill are undoubtedly there.

One of the most impressive works in the show, in my opinion, is a striking pencil drawing of three state policemen in steel masks by Carlo Brunozzi, a 12-grade student at Rio Americano High School here, and a student of Clyde Huyck.

The draftsmanship is sure, but even more noteworthy is the superb arrogance of the figures, caught in the haughty angle drawn by Brunozzi.

Some of the finest work in the show is three-dimensional. A good example is an inlay wooden bottle by Charles Chapin, an 11th grade student at Valley High School in Santa Ana.

Chapin has created a pleasing bot-

appens to be Arturo Toscanini) suspended above a frieze-like subject of a family picnic.

One only wonders why this striking etching is limited to a single copy rather than a conventional run.

THERE IS something fascinating about the seraphic drawing in pencil by Bonnie Woodward, an 11th grade student at Prospect High School in San Jose.

The face looks like Mick Jagger's, but a Jagger transmogrified by the artist.

Some of the finest pots in the show are two in clay by Fred Yager, a 12th grade student at Clovis High School in Fresno.

Yager has worked in some subtle designs and let himself go on some ingenious lids.

The gallery is worth a look by itself. Housed in a former mortuary chapel, the building is a solid example of Mission architecture with its beamed ceilings, arched the length of the building, and tile floors.



A wood- and -leather vest by Kevin Wohn of Orinda is one of the highly original works in the show.

Music Circus signs more on and off stage

The signing of several on stage performers and off stage staff for the 1973 Sacramento Music Circus season was announced this week by co-producers Russell Lewis and Howard Young.

Performers signed include Jesse White, who will play Horace Vandergelder in "Hello, Dolly!," Aug. 13-19; Lyle Talbot, set as Pellinore in "Camelot," July 30-Aug. 5; Paula Kelly, to play Nancy in "Oliver," Aug. 20-26; and Robert Driscoll, Mr. Bumble in "Oliver."

Jack Bunch will direct all the musicals save "Cabaret," which he will choreograph.

Walter Painter will choreograph all the shows except "Cabaret," which he will direct.

Sande Campbell, formerly of Sacramento, will be musical conductor for all but the Ed Ames Show. Frank Ortega, Ames's personal conductor, will be in the pit for the baritone star.

Dwight Richard Odle will be the resident costume and scenic designer.

WHITE, who has won the sympathy of television watchers as "the loneliest man in town" in the Maytag commercials, got his first break as the male nurse in the original production of "Harvey," in 1944.

He also starred as the male lead in "Born Yesterday," replacing Paul Douglas. In 1950 he came

to California, and has since been featured in 53 films.

Talbot, a native of Pittsburgh, has appeared in more than 150 films in his career. Among the most notable were "One Night of Love," starring Grace Moore, and "Sunrise at Campobello," with Ralph Bellamy as FDR.

He has also been busy in television—appearing in the Hall of Fame, Playhouse 90, the Lucy Show and others.

Paula Kelly, who studies modern dance at the Juilliard School of Music, starred in the London production of "Sweet Charity," and in the film with Shirley MacLaine.

MORE recently, she was featured in the films, "The Andromeda Strain," and "Cool Breeze."

Television watchers will recognize her from her frequent appearances on variety shows—the Dean Martin and David Frost, among others.

She is currently working in the Los Angeles production of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope."

Driscoll performed in Music Circus productions of "Can Can" and "Li'l Abner," and has performed in other summer musical theater spots as Melodyland, Phoenix and the Los Angeles Music Center.

Bunch is known internationally for he has

worked extensively in Germany, Switzerland and England.

In the U.S. he has done specials with Jimmy Durante and Danny Thomas. He has also worked with Ed Sullivan, Bing Crosby, Jerry Lewis and others.

PAINTER, who began his career in the chorus of "The Flower Drum Song," has most recently put together shows for Ann-Margret and Julie London to tour with in supper clubs.

On television in 1972, he created acts for George Kirby in "Half the George Kirby Comedy Hour," and for "Merv Griffin Presents Rita Hayworth."

Ms. Campbell got her initiation into show business from the Music Circus, where she became rehearsal pianist. From there it was a natural move to go to New York, and she has to her credit two successful off-Broadway musicals.

She also appeared on stage as a member of the all-girl band in "Cabaret." Then came "Coco" and "the Rothschilds," in which she figured as conductor.

Odle has worked extensively in educational and residential theater as well as providing the art direction for halftime entertainments during football games for a production company.



Jesse White

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