

# Festival 'Firsts' Feature 4-Man Show, Awards

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Birmingham's fourth annual Arts Festival will initiate a series of "firsts" this year.

Meriting interest will be a special showing of the work of four important artists at the new art center; 14 prizes for outstanding art entries; and a quartet of prizes in which the public will play an important role.

Painters Larissa Osby, Gerald Mast and Owen Brainard and sculptor Tom McClure are the artists whose works will be exhibited at the Birmingham Art Center, open for its first show since being remodeled.

"Transition" is the appropriate name given to this exhibit, because of both its setting and purpose. The show will be displayed in Bloomfield Art Association's new quarters, so recently converted from the city's sewage disposal plant.

THE EXHIBIT will point up the development of the four artists, thus giving the viewer an opportunity to understand and appreciate "transitions" in art.

Larissa Geiss Osby, the child of German-Russian parents, received her formal education and art training at the University of Goettingen, the University of Munich and the Academy of Fine Arts, also in Munich.

She became an American citizen in 1958 after emigrating to this country in 1951. A member of several art associations and societies, she teaches foreign languages and art.

Her work has been shown in Western Germany and in many exhibitions in the States, among them the Show of Modern Art, which visited 20 cities. Permanent and private collections which include her paintings are Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum; the University of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Board of Education.

SINCE 1958, she has won at least seven awards, several of them "firsts" in art.

Brainard, an assistant professor at Michigan State University, who won his MFA at Syracuse University and pursued further graduate study at New York State University, has been an art supervisor in the public schools at Delmar, N. Y., and a member of the faculty of design and art education at Drake University.

He has been shown in several one-man shows in many regional or national exhibitions. His work has been on exhibit at the Library of Congress, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and many other galleries and he is represented in many collections.

BRAINARD HAS WON numerous art awards. His principal media are oil, acrylic polymer, polyester and direct metal.

Gerald Mast, an assistant professor of drawing and painting at the University of Michigan, in its college of architecture and design and in its extension service, is a graduate of the John Herron Art Institute, Indianapolis, Ind.

His degree in fine arts was received from the Rhode Island School of Design. Mast assisted with the organization of an accredited art program for the U of M, to be carried on in the Grand Rapids Art Gallery studios, and he has been instrumental in the establishment of other art education programs.

AMONG THE MANY awards he has received is the first prize in mosaic at the National Exhibition of Ecclesiastical and Religious Art, Holy Name Parish in Birmingham in 1959.

He has done numerous murals for public buildings, was commissioned in 1959 to exhibit three rugs, now on their way to be exhibited in Australia, and is presently designing a tapestry on commission. Sculptor Tom McClure attended the

University of Nebraska and the Cranbrook Academy of Art and worked as an illustrator during the war for Boeing Aircraft Co.

He taught at U of M and the University of Oklahoma as well as at Alfred University, Alfred, N. Y.

HIS WORK HAS been exhibited as far west as Seattle and as far east as Syracuse.



McCLURE MAST



BRAINARD OSBY

cuse, N. Y. and is included in a number of impressive permanent collections.

Locally, he has been commissioned to do work for the Ford central staff office building in Dearborn and the Eastland Shopping Center in addition to commissions elsewhere.

Visitors who see the work of these four artists will also have the opportunity to study the mosaics in a glass bowl at the center.

A TRIO OF festival's guests will savor the community event long afterward for they will be the three whose estimate of the number of mosaics in the bowl is closest to the actual count. For their astuteness, they will have their choice of any red-tagged art entry on display in the festival.

The public will also participate in the selection of the most popular art work, whose creator will receive a \$50 prize from the festival committee. Ballots will be deposited at the information booth in Shain Park and may be clipped out of the free program book to be distributed during the festival. Ballots are also located on page 7 of this section.

TWO-MAN JURIES will select the winners both for the 14 awards to artists and for the local establishments who make the most effective use of art entries assigned to them for window display.

Certificates will be presented to the winning merchants; the selection will be made by John Green, of J. L. Hudson's window display department and by J. Alden Smith of Wayne State University.

Artists' work will be juried by Allen Leep of the MSU art department and William McVey of the Cleveland Art Institute of Art. The 14 awards, totalling \$900, have been contributed by Birmingham area organizations and individuals.

A \$150 AWARD from the BAA will go to the best work in show. Two \$100 prizes, contributed by The Averill Press and Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus R. Osborn, will be awarded for outstanding painting.

Eleven \$50 awards are earmarked for other outstanding entries. The donors and award categories are Mr. and Mrs.

Frederick G. Weed, outstanding oil; Mr. and Mrs. Harvey A. Kresge, outstanding craft; Hank Weber, abstract painting, and Green's, outstanding painting.

Others are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Barton, outstanding sculpture; Village Women's Club, outstanding work; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Harlan, outstanding weaving and outstanding silver work; Mr. and Mrs. William J. Poplack, outstanding sculpture, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vanderkloot, outstanding work.

## Contest in Mosaics At New Art Center

Persons making the three closest guesses as to the number of mosaics in a glass container at the new Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, will be rewarded.

The winners may take their choice of any work of art displayed with a red sticker.



"Masquerade"

Paintings by  
**Lucy Dean**

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at



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