

Oakland Students Exhibit Art Work

An exhibit of more than 100 original art works by Oakland University students will open with a public reception and tea from 3 to 6 p.m. today in the Art Gallery. There is no admission charge. The show, an annual event at the university in Rochester, will run through April 18. Representative works in oil, charcoal, ink, pencil and crayon will be included. Many of the works will be for sale.

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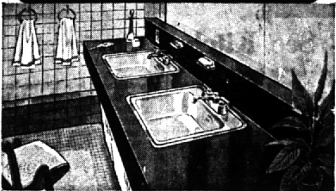
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ART FOR ART'S SAKE BY CAROLYN HALL
Special Writer

Betty Conn Says 'Life Is a Joy'

By CAROLYN HALL
Special Writer

Betty Conn is an artist who lives like people think one should. Many artists are obscured by a suburban overlay of protective coloration, perhaps a "raging inferno inside" but a disappointment to people who are vicariously thrilled by the "life artists lead."

"I just exist in my own realm," says Betty. "I love my work, love to play the guitar, love to garden and care for my animals. I love the challenge of a new idea. If I go off in all directions and they don't add up, what does it really matter? Life is a joy."

Betty's home at 30855 Southfield Road, Birmingham—a broad roof covering her studio, living gallery and daughter's area—is a haven for sympathetic souls. Sculptor Malcolm Moran had stopped by while I was there. A tired dancer came in to rest.

"Just like to lie down a minute!" she mumbled, scraping the cat off a shaggy white goat's fur throne on the divan. We went on talking. Four kids came in to report that Quilo, the German Shepherd dog, had found a dead fish in the pool in front of the house.

"This house is the closest thing to living outdoors," Betty indicated the wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling glass windows.

"I like the contrast of spaces. Some rooms are cozy or dark and then comes the constant surprise of a big light room opening up as you come into it. One should never become blasé about spaces."

BETTY APPROACHES her work with this same warmth and enthusiasm. This past year has been a busy one. In a few weeks two of her metal and glass sculptures will be unveiled in the Ford building at the World's Fair.

Her glass windows sparkle in permanent radiance from the walls of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Flint. Inch-thick chunks of glass are imbedded in an opaque white epoxy grout, like large-scale, white-leaded stained glass windows.

She continues to work in mosaics, making tables,

bowls—and even did the entire floor of her home.

HER WORK IN fused glass, mosaic, ceramic and sculpture requires a lot of equipment—a kiln, a bronze furnace, propane welding torch and many tools. Several pieces in progress suggest the many directions Betty is pursuing.

A white-noised black cat jumped into my lap and tried to chew the eraser off my pencil. "I only have the cats now," Betty mentioned.

MRS. HALL "And a dog, a salamander, a tree toad and a garden toad." Asked if he, the toad, was hibernating now, Betty said, "No, he's grown three times his size. He was just a baby when we got him."

A trip to Greece and Athens two years ago made it necessary for Betty to find other homes for her sheep and Nubian goat. The sheep was kind of a nut anyway.

IN ADDITION to commissions, Betty teaches both children's and adult classes at the Bloomfield Art Association.

The groups taking fused glass technique are described by Betty as young, good-looking, eager, well-educated, intelligent women. This makes it pretty easy to see why Betty is a success with them. They should try different ways until they find out what and who they are and what suits them."

THE ART WORLD seems to consist of sympathetic people, responding to similar interests and beliefs in each other, occasionally leaning on one another for support. Friends are more a matter of chemistry than geography, people feeling a responsibility for one another.

Betty has found the right life for herself, and she has "almost more friends than I can bear."

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BY BUD MAYBAUM
Southern Michigan Bridge Association

Birmingham-area bridge players did very well at the recent sectional tournament in Mt. Clemens, especially in the mixed-pair event. The winners overall were "Grandma" Ver Linden and Walter Lauchner, second overall were Judy and John Owen and in third overall were the Malstroms.

All are from the Birmingham area except Grandma.

Today's hand was played in this event and a good mathematical answer was the cause for success of this hand. Both Walter and Grandma were on my knock-out team of four last year, and for you who do not know Grandma, she was a former bareback rider in Wild Bill Cody's Rodeo Show and one of the first and best life masters in Michigan.

Neither vulnerable: Dealer: South

NORTH
(Marie Ver Linden)
♠ 16
♥ J72
♦ QJ3
♣ QJ105

WEST
♠ 1095
♥ A84
♦ 765
♣ AK82

EAST
♠ 10965
♥ 10982
♦ 983

(Dealer) (SOUTH)
(Walter Lauchner)
♠ AQ742
♥ KQ3
♦ AK4
♣ 74

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ pass 2 ♠ pass
4 ♠ all pass.

Opening lead: K ♠

Walter could find no way of avoiding the loss of two club tricks and the ace of hearts, but how to play the spades to bring the suit in with no loss?

When all cards are in front of you as shown by this hand, it is a simple matter, but many players in the South position led the jack of spades from the dummy and went down one.

Of course, Walter found the winning play of the small spade and hook the queen and then lay down the ace. This was just another of their good hands.

Southern Michigan will hold their winner's game at the Birmingham YMCA at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 12. This will get you home early so as to not interfere with work on Monday morning.

AGAIN, ALLOW ME to urge you to attend the special master-point game at The Community House in Birmingham Monday, April 20. The proceeds will go to the building fund of The Community House.

I hope to report both this game and the winner's game. For an extra donation to this fund, I will attempt to get you the life master you desire for a partner in this game.

Recent winners in Birmingham

Others from The Birmingham area and Southern Oakland County who did well at Mt. Clemens include Jessie Cook and Dr. Harold Barron, Murial and Saul Kaplan, Dan and Elizabeth Marcus, Ruth Guild and Bernard Weinstock, Clarence and Bud Maybaum, Dennis Roy and Jean Cutler.

Dottie and Harold Barron, Edwin V. Clarke and George Alderton II, Ollie Swarzwald and Greta Shepherd, and Veretta Fairchild and Claud Bennett.

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