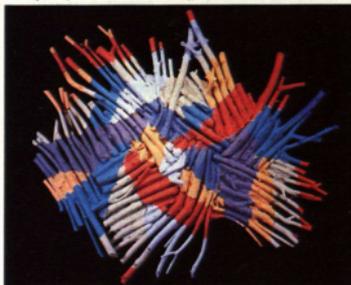


Crossing ART FRONTIERS

By JOHN BEAHLER

Exhibit organized by MU's Museum of Art and Archeology, in partnership with the Missouri Arts Council.



Kenneth Anderson of St. Louis combined wood, fiberglass and acrylic paint to create *Overlay #49*. Anderson arranges, binds and paints sticks and driftwood to make wall sculptures influenced by African, Indian and American folk artists.

Nathan Fors of Kansas City used an old wood door as the canvas for this painting called *Exit*. In his work, Fors explores the ambiguity of language by incorporating letters, phrases and abbreviations into collaged and painted surfaces.



Missouri artists are exploring new territory in the visual arts. Take Ron Leax, for example. The St. Louis artist creates sculptures from discarded books, stone or rusted tools. Many of his works then are soaked in a brine solution that leaves them rimed with a network of salt crystals.

Or photographer John Hilgert of St. Louis. Hilgert fashions small sculptures from natural objects, then photographs them with dramatic lighting effects that transform the sculptures into haunting, dreamlike images. And Nathan Fors of Kansas City explores the ambiguity of language by incorporating letters, abbreviations and literary phrases into the collaged and painted surfaces of his canvases.

Their techniques and perspectives are unusual, but these artists have one thing in common. Their work is being showcased in an exhibition organized by MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology, in cooperation with the Missouri Arts Council.

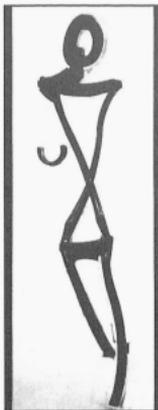
The exhibit, called the Missouri Visual Artists' Biennial, will travel throughout the state through next summer, giving Missourians the opportunity to see the latest in contemporary art.

For artists, the financial backing and exposure to a wider audience are both tantalizing. Leax says of the biennial. Leax is one of five Missouri artists whose works were selected for the exhibit by a statewide committee of arts experts. "As a traveling exhibit, it helps me reach more of an audience," Leax says. "I don't think the nature of my work is such that it is likely to appear in some of these towns."

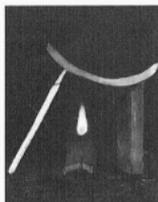
MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology Museum jumped at the chance to expand its role as an art resource for the entire state.

"As the third largest art museum in the state, we're excited to be in the forefront of what is happening today in art," says Dr. Morteza Sajadian, museum director. "Artists don't have to be in New York or California to be making a contribution, making a statement with their art."

After a seven-week run at Mizzou, the biennial moved to St. Joseph, where it's on display until July 14 at The Kemper-Albrecht Museum of Art. Director Marianne Berardi says the biennial draws good crowds and usually stirs up some controversy. "This is an infusion of something quite a bit different," she says. "I like that. I think it's challenging to the community." ☐



Shadow Drawing, in charcoal and white chalk, by Warren Rosser of Kansas City traces the images of shadows cast by one of Rosser's large free-form sculptures.



John Hilgert of St. Louis used dramatic lighting techniques to create this untitled black-and-white photograph from his *Visitation Series*. For more texture, Hilgert sometimes draws on the negatives with knives or coins.

Border to border

Art lovers across the state can see the latest in contemporary art by Missouri artists on exhibit at the following locations:

June 1 to July 14, 1991, The Kemper-Albrecht Art Museum, 2818 Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph.

August 1 to Sept. 14, 1991, The Gallery at the Center of Contemporary Arts, 524 Trinity Ave., University City in the St. Louis area.

Jan. 5 to Feb. 9, 1992, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive, Springfield.

March 28 to April 24, 1992, Margaret Harwell Art Museum, 421 N. Main St., Poplar Bluff.

July 10 to Aug. 17, 1992, Kansas City Artists Coalition, 201 Wyandotte, Kansas City.

MUtual benefit

A one-time change in the federal tax laws provides a unique opportunity this year to support Mizzou's Museum of Art and Archaeology.

Donated works of art will be fully tax deductible in the amount of their appreciated value for this year only. For example, a painting purchased in 1970 for \$25,000 now may be worth \$250,000. The full amount of the current value will be tax deductible in 1991 only, with the option to carry portions of the gift forward into future tax years.

"If you have been considering donating a work of art to the Museum of Art and Archaeology, this is the year to do so, when it can benefit both you and the museum to the fullest," says Dr. Morteza Sajadian, museum director.

MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology is the third largest art museum in Missouri, and the only one that offers academic training programs in museum studies.

An art auction is planned for October 1992, and proceeds will benefit the museum's acquisition and education programs. To find out more about the tax benefits of donating artwork to the Museum of Art and Archaeology, call the MU Development Office at (314) 882-6511 or the museum at (314) 882-3591.