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# Tarble Arts Center Newsletter April 1993

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# Tarble Arts Center

Newsletter

-- April 1993



## EXHIBITIONS

### WILLIAM CONGER: RECENT PAINTINGS

-- through May 5

Although Chicago is not usually noted for its abstract artists, William Conger has been exhibiting in the city with critical success since the early 1970's. Rather than presenting the harsh formalist juxtapositions of geometric abstraction, Conger's paintings are more subtle. Conger's experimentation has tended toward creating an illusion of atmospheric space in which various geometrically-based forms exist and interrelate. Many of the objects or their interrelationships have a certain familiarity about them -- disassembled mechanisms, details of objects seen up close, the distorted perspective of looking through a stained glass window. Together these elements create the feeling of being in a situation that seems familiar, but which cannot be specifically remembered or identified. The result is an unsolvable visual anagram: the process of unravelling the message engages the mind, while the always unfulfilled anticipation of what the message might be stimulates the emotions.

Conger is the Chair of the Department of Art Theory and Practice at Northwestern University. He is represented by works in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Illinois State Museum, AT&T Corporation, IBM Corporation, and many other public and corporate collections. Conger holds a BFA from the University of New Mexico, received his MFA from the University of Chicago, and also studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Reviews of paintings by Conger have appeared in *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Arts Magazine*, *ArtNews*, *New Art Examiner*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. This exhibition is presented in cooperation with the Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago.

### 1993 GRADUATE ART EXHIBITION

-- April 3 - 25, Main Galleries

The 1993 Graduate Art Exhibition, co-sponsored by the EIU Art Department, serves as a group thesis for Master of Arts degree candidates in Studio Art at Eastern Illinois University. The artists represented in the exhibition are: Karen Boshart, ceramic sculpture; Karen Clinton, painting on formed canvas; Margaret A. DeRuiter, fine metals and wood sculpture; Jane Doe, mixed media installations; Juanita Kauffman, painting on silk; Christine Miller, steel sculpture; Renee L. Richards, fine metals; and, Mindy Spritz, mixed media painting and drawing.

Boshart credits the inspiration of her pyramidal ceramic forms to rocky buttes and

towering grain elevators of her native North Dakota, and the Prairie School and Craftsman architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and Gustav Stickley. The ambiguity between painting and sculpture in Clinton's work symbolically evokes the changing role of women in our society. DeRuiter's highly geometrical forms are strongly inspired by architecture and science, reflecting logical thought and technical precision. Jane Doe has strived to create a personal vocabulary of visual images using common objects which she then manipulates to make statements about society's abuse toward women and children. Although painting on silk is usually considered to be an Oriental media, Kauffman's work is firmly grounded in the figurative tradition of Western art. Miller has always enjoyed exploring to find unusual objects; her work is made from metal yard scraps, combined or manipulated to create tension and energy. A perceived historical tendency of our society to treat women as objects is turned around in Richard's work, which are functional objects made in the likenesses of women's bodies. The work of Spritz symbolizes her personal philosophy that life is a tense space between conflicting forces, through which we can pass only by our intellect and the acquisition of knowledge.

## 11TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION

-- April 30 - May 23

Organized each May, this exhibition provides an opportunity for area art teachers to showcase their programs, enjoying high visibility in the community. Organized in cooperation with the Art Teachers of Community Unit #1 Schools, this exhibition features two and three-dimensional works by area students, grades K-12, along with works created by children from other countries, and has had the endorsement of Dr. William Hill, Community Unit #1 Superintendent, since its beginning in 1983. Area schools represented in the show include Carl Sandburg, Lerna, Mark Twain, Lincoln, and Ashmore Elementaries, Jefferson School, Charleston Junior High School, Charleston High School, Charleston; Sullivan Middle School, and Sullivan High School; Windsor High School; Stewardson-Strasburg Community Unit District 5A Schools; Crestwood School, Paris; Kansas Schools; Mattoon Junior High School; Chrisman Community Unit School District #6; Arthur Junior and Senior High School; Arcola Grade School; Cumberland Elementary and Junior High; and Main Street School, Moulton Junior High, and Shelbyville High School, Shelbyville.

The international component of the 1993 exhibition is comprised of Indian children's works from the Nehru Children's Museum in Calcutta, India. Mr. Jugal Srimal, Director of the Gallery, curated this selection of children's works specifically for the Tarble Arts Center. Mr. Srimal was located through the INSEA Membership Directory. INSEA is the International Non-Government, World Organization for Education through Art, to which Tarble belongs. (A closing reception and awards presentation ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 16, 1992. )

## EVENTS

### RECEPTION: GRADUATE ART EXHIBITION

-- April 4, 2-4pm

A reception to honor the participating graduate students will be held. The public is invited to view the exhibition and discuss the works with the artists.

## DOCENT MEETING

-- April 5, 10am - noon

The meeting begins with a film presentation, *Why Man Creates*, followed by exhibition tours of the *1993 Graduate Art Exhibition* in the Main Galleries, and *Recent Paintings by William Conger*, in the Brainard Gallery. This meeting is open to the public, and persons interested in becoming a Tarble Docent are particularly encouraged to attend.

## SLIDE LECTURE: WILLIAM CONGER

-- April 8, 7pm

William Conger will present a lecture about his paintings. Conger has presented lectures at Cornell University; University Art Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Terra Museum of American Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; University of Chicago; and other area universities and galleries.

## CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES CONCERT: *THE VIRTUOSO OBLIGATO*

-- April 11, 3pm (Easter Sunday)

This special Easter concert features various vocal ensembles combined with violoncello and piano, of faculty members from Illinois Wesleyan University and the University of Illinois. *The Virtuoso Obligato* is a collection of works for violoncello, voice, and piano by famous composers, which was compiled, arranged and edited by Bargara Smith Hedlund. To be presented are works by Handel, Bach, Mozart, Rossini, Mendelssohn, and Wagner. Performances of *The Virtuoso Obligato* have been received with enthusiasm in New York, the Aspen Music Festival, Eisenstadt, Austria, as well as Urbana and Bloomington, Illinois.

Tickets are \$4.50, \$2.50 for students and senior citizens, and are available in advance at the EIU Music Department office or at the door the day of the performance. The Tarble Arts Center Chamber Music Series is co-sponsored by the EIU Music Department. For more information call the Music office at 581-3010.

## SOME SEATS STILL AVAILABLE IN UPCOMING WHITTLING WORKSHOP

-- April 18th, 1:00-4:00pm

Designed for ages 16 years and up, *Whittling* is being presented on Sunday, April 18th. With pocketknife in hand, Andy Anderson of Paris will teach old-time whittling techniques as well as knife-sharpening. After reviewing a number of classic whittler's projects, students will begin creating their own work. The fee is \$20.00 for members, and includes both instruction and supplies. Interested persons should phone the Tarble Arts Center at 581 - ARTS (-2787) to register. Remaining seats are limited, and early registration is encouraged.

## RECITAL: SUZUKI VIOLIN STUDENTS OF VESTA RUNDLE

-- April 18, 2pm

The violin students of Vesta Rundle will showcase their achievements.

## CELEBRATE WITH A SPECIAL SUNDAY FAMILY WORKSHOP: BALANCING FOLK ART TOYS

-- April 25, 1:00 - 4:00pm; Registration Deadline: April 23rd, 5:00pm

A new program at the Tarble Arts Center, *Sunday Family Workshops* serves to bring professional artists in contact with area families, and to provide families with a unique, affordable opportunity to create together. In conjunction with *Celebration '93*, the Tarble Arts Center is offering the final *Sunday Family Workshop* of the year free of charge to area families to begin the week-long celebration of the arts in Charleston. Assistant Professor in Eastern's Art Department, Jeff Boshart will present *Balancing Folk Art Toys*. Boshart is a sculptor and educator whose artwork has been featured in numerous exhibitions nationwide and whose workshops on balancing art have been enjoyed by hundreds of individuals ranging from pre-school to senior citizens. Mr. Boshart is currently head of the sculpture program at EIU and graduate coordinator for the Art Department. Throughout the history of human kind, there has always been an interest in balancing objects. Apparently, the "magic" of balance, center of gravity, and movement entice, enthrall, and entertain the viewer's intellectual and tactile playfulness and, thus, balancing toys were created. *Balancing Folk Art Toys* will provide an historical context for balancing toys, and will include the preliminary development of the concept through modelling and the creation of a wooden sculptural balancing toy to take home. Family groups can include kith or kin as long as a ratio of one adult for every two children is maintained with groups being limited to four members. All supplies are provided, and registration is currently being accepted until April 23rd, 5:00pm. Seats are limited, and interested persons are encouraged to phone the Tarble Arts Center at 581-ARTS (-2787) now to register for this exciting family arts opportunity.

## ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ART WORKSHOP

-- April 30, 11am

This art workshop for area junior high students is sponsored by the EIU Art Department.

## CELEBRATION: A FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS '93

-- April 30, May 1 & 2

*CELEBRATION: A Festival of the Arts* returns with three days of food, fun, and a smorgasbord of the arts for people of all ages. The Tarble Arts Center is again teaming up with the Illinois Friends of the Folk Arts to present folk music and dancing, and material folk arts. Returning this year are the Boneyard Creek Cloggers, the Indian Creek Delta Boys, blacksmith Jobie Spencer, and many other performers and makers, including some new faces. Music will be showcased in the Buzzard Auditorium and on the outdoor stage. Material artists will be outside on 7th Street near the Tarble, inside along the halls of the Buzzard Building, and in the lobby of Dvorak Concert Hall at the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Many other performers and presenters are scheduled, including Peppercorn Puppets maker Dave Pavelonis (an EIU alumni), the Waterloo German Band, the African American Dancers, and a Punch and Judy puppet show. So mark your calendars, and let's hope for better weather than last year!

## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

-- February 16 - March 15

### Family Patron

Lynn & Vanlou Trank

### Individual Patron

Grace Markwell Meier

### Student/Senior Patron

John Frazier

Martha Llach

Heather Shuman

Allegra Wilber

## FROM THE CURATOR

Since 1982, the Tarble Arts Center has served as a point of cultural connection for the university, the public schools, and the community of eastcentral Illinois through a variety of arts programs. In response to the new Illinois state requirements for the arts in the curriculum, classroom teachers and art specialists have come to depend more than ever on Tarble Education Programs for quality experiences for their students. This has been evidenced in the growing numbers of schools participating in programs. During January and February 1993, the **1993 Art Enrichment Program** was presented 16 times to 328 participating students, representing a 152% growth in program participation over 1991 figures. This and other school programs continue to grow.

Offered annually in May to area fifth grade classroom teachers, the **1993 Fifth Grade Art Enrichment** program dates are filled. The 1993 program focuses on *Shape: Selections from the Permanent Collection* on exhibit in the Brainard Gallery during the month. Curated as a teaching exhibition in the ongoing series **Fifth Grade Enrichment: The Elements of Art**, the two and three-dimensional works in this exhibition involve shape as a significant component. The objectives of the program are to develop an understanding of shape in art, and its use in developing visual communication that the young viewer can follow and appreciate. It is hoped that through this enrichment experience the young student will begin to develop strategies for approaching works of art. Presented twice this year, in the fall to 250 Jefferson fifth graders, the spring program is scheduled to be presented 13 times to 359 participating students from outside the Charleston school district. With a total of 609 fifth grade students visiting the Tarble this year, this represents a 174% growth in program participation over 1991 figures.

Throughout its history, the Tarble has developed programs in direct cooperation with diverse groups, programs, and departments on campus. One of the most significant developments in education programming at the center is the increase in cooperative programs developed with the Art Education program. Plans are being developed in which the Tarble will more fully serve as a teaching laboratory for Art Education students. This will provide not only direct teaching/lecturing experience but also the unique opportunity to teach "from the object," critical to the development of today's art educators in light of DBAE and other discipline-based developments in the field.

Commissioned by Newton Tarble to "take the Arts to the people," one of the major goals of the Tarble Arts Center since its inception has been the promotion of participation in the arts as an integral part of the cultural experience in the area. In fulfillment of this goal, the Tarble Arts Center continues to serve as a point of cooperation, communication, and learning for community groups, public school students, art education professionals, and college students and faculty by providing stimulating programs that emphasize direct participation with exhibitions through cooperative learning, direct teaching, and creative experiences.

-- Donna Meeks

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

An increasing number of members and patrons have been asking how the Tarble Arts Center is fairing in this period of financial hard times. My response is guardedly optimistic: the Tarble is doing okay.

Eastern Illinois University provides for the Tarble's operational basis, including salaries for the professional staff, routine maintenance and servicing of the facility, and utilities. But operational funding, including the program monies which make possible the Tarble Arts Center's lively and changing exhibitions and activities, is a different story. This fiscal year's operational costs for the Tarble will total approximately \$52,000. Of this 33% (nearly \$17,000) is grant funding from the Illinois Arts Council, with 5% (\$2,500) pending from the Illinois Humanities Council. Membership contributions figure prominently -- 29% -- in funding programs (about \$15,000). Around 6% (\$2,500 to \$3,000) is income earned through commissions from the Gift Shop and Sales/Rental Gallery, with a small part of this amount raised through classes and workshops (theses offerings are designed to break even to keep participation fees down). The endowment for the Tarble Arts Center, established when the facility was opened, provides 10% of the Tarble's operational funds (\$5,500). The amount of funding for operations provided the Tarble through state appropriations to Eastern is approximately \$9,000, or 17%; this amount has actually decreased over the last few years, from a high of \$12,450 in fiscal year 1991, as monies have been reallocated to provide for salary increases. To put these program and operational costs in some perspective, the annual fine arts insurance premium is \$2,500, the fee for last year's exhibition *Lasting Impressions: The Drawings of Thomas Hart Benton* was \$7,500 in rent and \$4,000 in transportation charges, and publication of the *Watercolor: Illinois* exhibition catalogue cost \$1,200.

What does the future hold? Again, to provide some perspective, the budget for the Illinois Arts Council has decreased by 40% since 1991. This, to some extent has resulted in reduced grant monies going to the Tarble. For example, support coming from the IAC's Visual Arts division this year is \$9,190, down from a high of \$16,040 in fiscal year 1991, and Arts-In-Education funding granted is down from a high of \$6,450 last year to this year's \$1,740 for the artist-in-residence program. But the Tarble has managed to maintain a fairly consistent success in funding granted by the IAC in terms of combined program requests by making application to other program areas, especially in Ethnic and Folk Arts. The proceeds from the Tarble's endowment reflect market trends: \$5,000 will be available for the next fiscal year;

\$11,000 from the endowment went to the Tarble's operations in the 1987 fiscal year. And appropriated funding for the next fiscal year is expected to remain the same as for this year. While this is better than allocations decreasing, most program costs continue to rise; the rent for exhibitions of prints or photographs now routinely cost \$5,000 - \$10,000 from agencies such as the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, while major exhibitions from the American Federation of Arts or the International Exhibit Foundation can cost as much as \$50,000, not including shipping charges.

The Tarble Arts Center has continued to upgrade its programs and expand its services, thanks to sustained membership contributions, special major donations from Mrs. Newton Tarble (which made possible the recent facility renovations), specific program underwriting by various donors (especially the 1992-93 Chamber Music Series and the ninth biennial *Watercolor: Illinois*), increased cooperative programming between the Tarble Arts Center and other agencies on- and off-campus (especially the Art Department), networking with area museums and galleries (most notably the School of Art & Design at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and the Illinois State Museum), continued volunteer support, and the creative use of donated or low-cost materials (particularly for enrichment programs designed by Donna Meeks).

So the Tarble Arts Center is doing okay and aspires to do better. If you are a member -- thank you for your support. If you are not a member -- please consider joining (we will be happy to send you an application form). If you believe the Tarble's programs are worthwhile, then please acknowledge this worth by urging your state representatives and senators to restore some of the funding to the Illinois Arts Council (refer to IAC budget SB315). In the mean time the Tarble staff will continue to explore new ways to reduce costs and expand services and audiences through cooperative programming and networking, and look for alternative funding sources. The goal is to maintain standards of quality, reach more people, and expand the Tarble's potential base of support.

-- Michael Watts

## UPCOMING FOR MAY

Docent Meeting -- May 3, 10 - noon

*Shapes: Selections from the Permanent Collection* -- May 7 - June 6

Auditions: Charleston Area Arts Council Honors Recital -- May 8, 9am-4pm

Charleston Area Arts Council Honors Recital -- May 15, 7pm

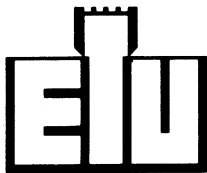
Reception & Awards Presentation: *International Children's Exhibition* -- May 16, 1:30-3:30pm

Recital: the Students of Julie Miller -- May 23, 2-4pm

*Illinois Folk Arts from the Collection* -- May 29 - August 15

Tarble Office closed for Memorial Day -- May 31





# Eastern Illinois University

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Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099

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### Staff:

Michael Watts, Director  
Donna Meeks, Curator of Education  
David Pooley, Registrar  
Kimberly Woods, Secretary

James K. Johnson,  
Acting Dean, College of Fine Arts

### Volunteer Coordinators:

Maggie Hollowell and Corrine Joyner, Docent  
Education Program  
Victoria Woollen-Danner, Gift Shop  
Barbara Watts, Sales/Rental Gallery

### General Information:

Open Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 1 - 4pm; Closed Mondays and holidays. Admission is free unless otherwise noted. For information or to schedule a group tour, telephone 217/581-ARTS(2787). The Tarble Arts Center is located on South Ninth Street at Cleveland Avenue, on the Eastern Illinois University campus. The Tarble Arts Center is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and by Tarble Arts Center membership contributions.