



Submitted photo

Tim Dignam and other member artists of the Colborne Art Gallery invite you to spend Culture Days with

Spend Culture Days in Colborne

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CECILIA NASMITH
 Northumberland Today

touch with the creative side of our brain, and magical things can happen.

COLBORNE — Members of the Colborne Art Gallery have issued the invitation to spend Culture Days with them.

This cross-Canada volunteer movement to raise awareness and engagement by all Canadians in the arts is being celebrated in many ways on Sept. 28 and 29 (which you can explore at <http://culturaldays.ca>).

In Colborne, gallery members have planned two days of activities to get everyone involved in the creative process.

On Saturday, Jillian Roos-Markowitz will lead the way with three afternoon experiences, with all supplies provided.

- Intuitive drawing from 1 to 2 p.m. — Intuitive drawing comes from deep within, using such items as a flower or a stone to stimulate our mind. Using the lines and marks of the object, we draw with closed eyes to get in

- Mono printing from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. — Working on a small plexiglass plate with water-colour crayon helps us explore colour, line and shape to release a new design that can be quite a surprise.

- Lino-block printing from 4 to 5 p.m. — With special knives to cut through the soft linoleum on these blocks, and printing inks in glorious colours, wonderful prints take shape.

On Sunday, from 3 to 4 p.m., drop in for an artist's chat on the occasion of the final day of Tim Dignam's exhibit. Dignam will conduct and record a performance piece using text and performers, and will be available to answer any questions about the process and ideas behind his work.

The Colborne gallery is located at 51 King St. E. in Colborne.

cecilia.nasmith@sunmedia.ca
twitter.com/NT_cnasmith

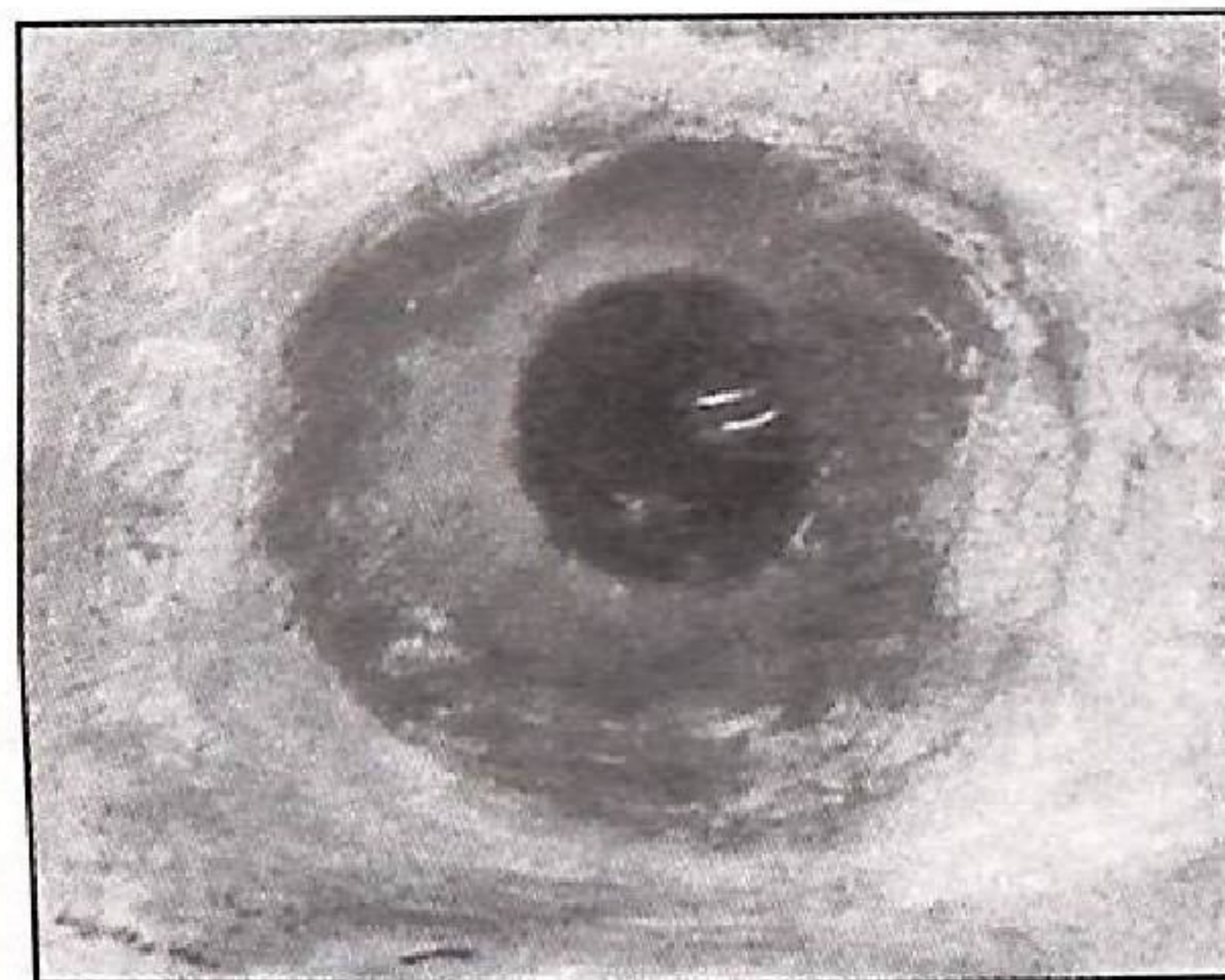
Unified Diversity: Tim Dignam at the Colborne Art Gallery

by Annie McDonald

I went to visit Tim Dignam at his basement studio, way out in the Baltimore area woods, and was thrilled at the paintings and sculpture that were underway for his upcoming feature show at the Colborne Art Gallery, entitled *Unified Diversity*. There I found the wide range of expression that I have come to expect from Tim - the work swings this way and that, both in materials and subject.

The first piece we talked about is an abstract construction sculpture, made from many pieces of wood, carefully joined at irregular angles, divided into spaces that are similar in area, but different in shape. "It's like us. We are all different, but can work together." He repeats the theme with a series of acrylic painted stretched canvas squares. Ambiguous, angular, architectural space is similarly created on the canvasses.

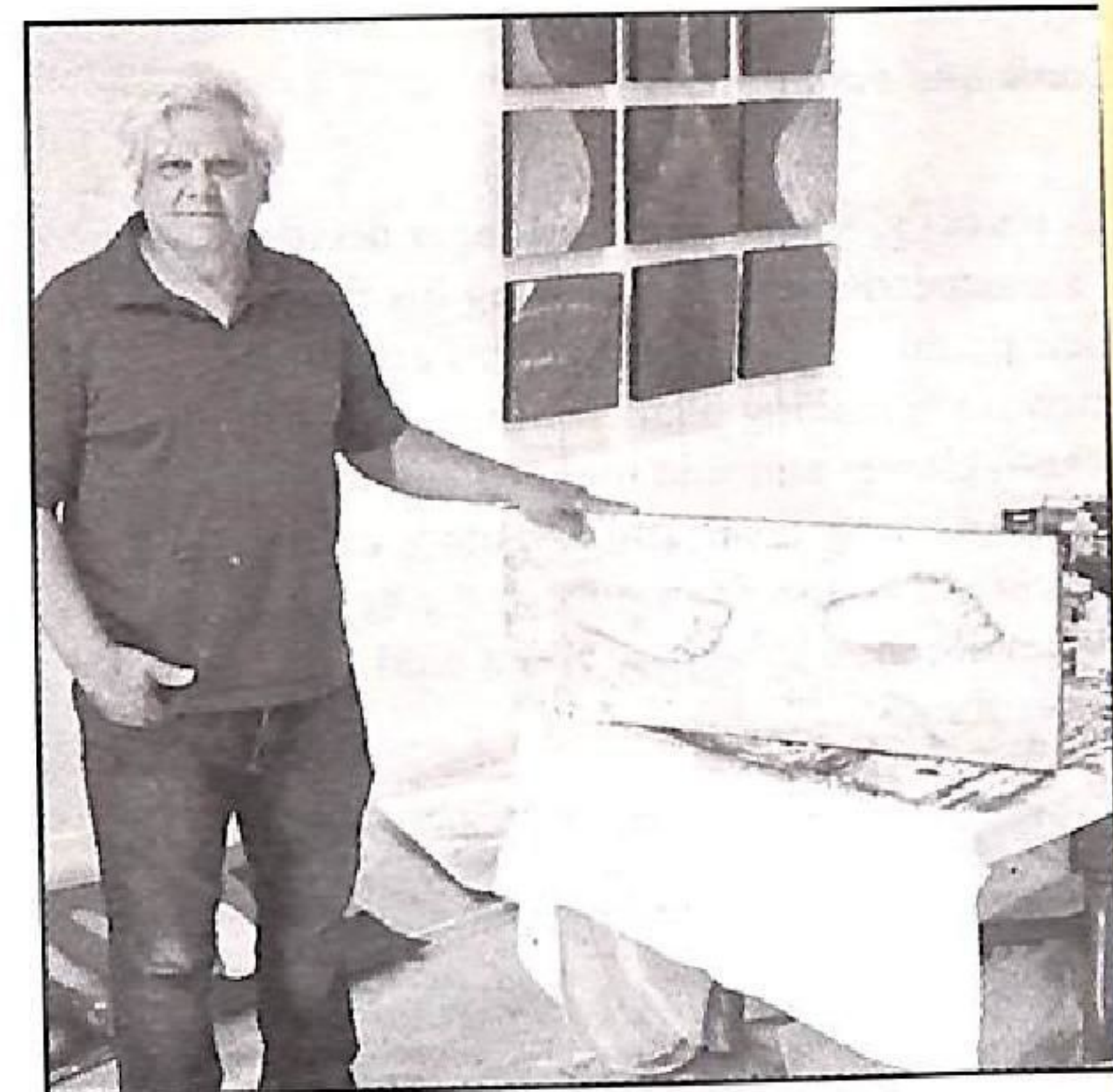
Dignam has an affinity for a variety of materials and will use almost anything that comes to hand to do the job. He is also familiar with traditional sculpture techniques, starting in clay, and finishing with a polyurethane casting material. He has a foot series that has been worked this way. Tim explains the subject of the sculpture: "The first images of Buddha were foot prints, long before western influences came along - only then was Buddha



Artwork by Tim Dignam

presented as a figure." Tim likes the footprints because of the personal and visceral feel they elicit when viewed. They involve everybody.

My favorite of the new works is a wall installation made up of 16 square, painted canvasses, that could be viewed separately but Tim's intention is for us to view them together. The shapes are organic in nature and the curvilinear masses continue from one square section to another. Light is emitted from the complementary autumnal palette. Intriguing layers



Tim Dignam in his studio

are created with underpainting and then scumbling with closely keyed colours on top to create a lively surface. An overall tension is created when the square sections work with the curvilinear forms. There is a strong sense of relationships, even conversations between the abstracted forms.

Tim Dignam's family is deeply rooted in this area. Painting and the artistic life come naturally to him, as his great-grandmother was an accomplished and edgy feminist painter of her time. Tim follows this example as a founding member of The Colborne Art Gallery. He has contributed artworks for exhibit and also worked as curator there for many years.

Works by other members will also be on display. The show continues Thursdays through Sundays, 12 to 5 pm, at 51 King Street E., Colborne, through September 29. For more information, please visit www.thecolborneartgallery.ca.

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