

Four area artists busily prepare for showing

By KAREN WARD
Four semi-professional artists are exhibiting and selling their crafts in a ranch house behind Terra Cotta Inn March 19 and 20.

Agnes Olive, of Terra Cotta, will display pieces made of clay and different prints. "Although the show is not far off, I am still experimenting constantly for different effects by combining the painting with the pottery," she said.

Mrs. Olive achieves special effects by using a variation of firing techniques for the pottery. She fires pottery functionally in a kiln, she uses a sawdust method where sawdust is used as a fuel, and she fires pottery outside in the old

primitive way of using cow dung and wood.

By combining painting with pottery, Mrs. Olive has started printing colored pictures and designs on large plates. Recently, she started working with porcelain.

For printing she uses a collagraph method, a silk screen method and monotypes. Collagraphs are a collage made from anything placed on a temp plate, she uses fish net or cardboard. Silk screen effects are achieved by projecting an image on a screen, and using squeegees to pull ink through the screen in areas not blocked out. Monotypes are generally made on an etching press, but the press

costs \$1,000 so she uses a friend's wooden mangle.

"All forms of art start with the artist's idea of a design, but as the print develops, you improvise as you go. When I see something exciting happening I go along with it and try to develop it," she said.

"Environment affects the mood of artists, and in a city atmosphere, I'm sure my work would be different than it is. I probably wouldn't have created the primitive pieces, or use different primitive methods," she said.

Some of the different ideas for her art work have been germinating in the back of her mind for many years, subconsciously.

"Although I'm very critical of my own work, I am not afraid to try working out an idea. My family serves as pretty fair and honest critics," she said.

Janice Smith will be displaying sterling silver jewellery set in contemporary designs. She likes the style of Scandinavian jewellery, "It's simple but classic with contemporary lines," but she tries all designs all free form or geometric styles.

Her style has changed, she said, in the last four years. She designs plain settings, some settings are adorned with semi-precious stones, but mostly from Canadian gems.

Mrs. Smith enjoys working with gold, she finds it easier than working with silver, but gold is so expensive it isn't feasible to design pieces in quantity.

She buys precious metals from a shop in Toronto, in sheet form, or in flat sheets with different thickness. She hammers, welds and casts the metal.

"Metal is far more versatile than people think. I keep a scrap jar, and melt down any scraps left over to be used again later. Silver dust is used for my textiles," she said.

"When working with turquoise stones I am careful that my work doesn't resemble Mexican jewellery, Mexican jewellery is nice, but I am Canadian and want my work to be my own," she said.

This is Mrs. Smith's first private show and she feels a little rushed for time since the show is less than a week away. "Working with metal takes a lot of time," she said.

Lotte Zonnenberg works with pewter designing ornaments, jewellery, plates, goblets and music boxes. For ornamenting jewellery she uses odd stones or polished wood.

"Pewter if polished long enough can shine like silver, but I like a low-lustre shine," she said.

Mrs. Zonnenberg decided when she first learned the art,

she wanted to use the craft as a career. "It is long past the point of being a hobby, when you work 35 hours a week," she said.

The other artists feel the same way. Mrs. Smith has had her work accepted in the Meriton Gallery and House Sol. She studied at Sheridan and is continuing her studies at George Brown College.

Mrs. Olive holds her own show annually, has had work exhibited in several juried shows.

Mrs. Zonnenberg has displayed her crafts in over 50 shows, given several workshops at Mohawk and Sheridan colleges and recently exhibited her work at the Ontario Science Centre. The three women met through the Credit Valley Artisans, where all three will be teaching workshops.

Jo Walterson has been painting for about fourteen years, but three years ago she started to become more serious about her painting, and now "it is definitely not a hobby."

At the show she will exhibit mono-prints and collagraphs, using acrylics and water colors. "Every picture is one of a

kind," she said.

Mrs. Walterson has displayed work at various juried shows, but this is the first show

of this type. The artists want the display of their work at Terra Cotta to be more than a show. They are hoping to

achieve a gallery feeling and have invited directors from

various galleries rounding area.



AGNES OLIVE DISPLAYS SOME OF HER WORK

Ashgrove socials

By Mrs. John Belloddy
Now we are into March, already we have forgotten those bitter cold days and storms of January and February and we are counting the days until the twenty-first when we can say those glorious words "Spring is here."

Quite a number of families have been down South and most of them say it was comfortable with a sweater on. Mr. and Mrs. William Allison spent a week in Cuba and they came back with a lovely tan, but we all have to take the weather as it comes.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford Wickson and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nurse enjoyed a two weeks Farmer's Winter Holiday when they flew down to New Orleans, Louisiana, and Houston, Texas where they toured around an experimental farm. They also attended a livestock show and rodeo; spent a couple of days in Mexico and visited a special glass factory. They had some time in San Antonio and Dallas, Texas, before heading for home.

That little feller Cupid with his bow and arrow has struck our village again, but it is one of our boys this time. David Taylor is being married in Milton on April 2 to you David and Claudette we wish many years of happiness as you

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