

Maryon Kantaroff

Sculptor, art historian says art is oldest profession

By Lorre Calder
The oldest profession practised by women, according to Toronto sculptor Maryon Kantaroff, is not prostitution—but art.

Kantaroff, in addition to being a sculptor is an art historian who has been exhibiting her work since 1962. She spoke at Sheridan College Thursday as the first in a series of Herizon Lectures sponsored by the Women's Center of the College.

She spoke to a small crowd on the topic of "Women and Creativity".

Early cave art and symbols carved in bone were actually done by women and not the men, as history would have us believe, according to Kantaroff. She said the men would be busy hunting for food and would be too busy to paint pictures on cave walls.

The pictures were often signed by a handprint in paint and the animals were sexually labelled in the drawings.

In the later neolithic period

of time, people had discovered fire, weaving, husbandry, agriculture and pottery. They had become less nomadic and this period formed the basics of future civilizations by becoming more settled. The women had a more intimate contact with the earth from their gathering and scavenging days. They prepared the food for the family and made containers for the food to be put into. After they were made, they would be decorated.

The decorations on the pots and bowls would have some magical significance because art is emotional statements in a magical way, according to Kantaroff.

These people believed the symbols which decorated their pots captured the power to protect or destroy, she said.

With the city-states of Greece, came a much more creative domestic scene than we have now. Their art depicted actual historical events as well as mythical stories.

Later, the Catholic Church almost killed off women's creativity, said Kantaroff. The only art to come out of this era was the illuminated manuscripts made by the nuns of the 11th century, but even this was done through the church.

Many women were unable to even study art, let alone have their work recognized by the art world, so many who had been fortunate enough to learn their craft signed their work under the name of the man whose style they copied. Many works of art are being discovered today to have been done by women who had been students, daughters or sisters of great artists.

Even in today's society, a woman cannot apprentice to a man. Kantaroff said she applied to apprentice to a male artist and was flatly refused because, "a female's presence might upset the male apprentice."

She also said that getting to where she is today was a real competition. She never considered going to art college because at the time no one had

done it and the thought of it never even crossed her mind, so she went into art history.

In her postgraduate art classes, Kantaroff said she knew more about the background of art than her professors did. Now, however, competition is not the top priority in her life.

"I'm just happy to be learning, mucking and working," she said.

Of her postgraduate class, she said that most of the women went into professional sculpting while the men chose to get married and opted for the more secure life of teaching art.

Kantaroff is a graduate of University College, University of Toronto. She has her own foundry where she casts her own sculpture as well as the works of other artists. Because of the physical strength often needed to work with sculpture Kantaroff said she is often called a lesbian.

"My sculpture makes definite statements," she said. "I use both egg shapes and long straight shapes which represent female and male respectively in art."

"If you want to buy a piece of sculpture, buy it from a woman," she said, it's almost invariably underpriced."

Champion

Family Page

Hornby WI sponsors three 4-H girls' clubs

The October meeting of Hornby Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. H. Reid Wednesday, Oct. 10, with Mrs. C. Wrigglesworth presiding.

The roll call, a four line verse on Canada, was answered by the eight members and two visitors present. In the absence of the secretary, the assistant, Mrs. L. Sampson, read the minutes.

A letter was received from the adopted child in Korea and it was decided to carry on with donations for this child another year.

Mrs. Wrigglesworth reported on the achievement day held in Hillcrest Church on "Focus on Finishes". She also thanked those who contributed to the display at Milton Fair. The Institute is sponsoring three 4-H girls' clubs this time.

Mrs. C. Patterson gave the report of the directors' meeting.

A district day is to be held in Ligny Hall Nov. 9, with a dessert luncheon at 12:30. The

district annual for 1979 is to be held in Acton Presbyterian Church in May. The 4-H achievement day is to be held in the E. C. Drury school Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mrs. McCarron, convener of education and cultural affairs, took charge of the program. She introduced the guest, Mrs. Cromar of Georgetown, who gave three humorous readings. A contest was conducted on short

sayings and Mrs. Cromar and Mrs. O'Connor were the winners. The guest was presented with a gift by Mrs. McCarron.

Lunch was served by Mrs. W. Ford, Mrs. McCarron and the hostess, Mrs. H. O'Connor was courtesy lady, thanking all who took part.

The November meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Roy Wilson.

Bruce Court tenants ready for Hallowe'en

The tenants of Bruce Court Apartments held their monthly meeting last week and plans were made for Hallowe'en night. Goodies will be distributed in the lobby of the building.

Arrangements were also made for a white elephant and home baking sale and tea on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 2 to 5.

On Oct. 3 the regular pro-

gressive euchre party was held with a good attendance. First prize for ladies went to Ruth Kopec; for the men the high was Bob Laking.

Ladies of the third floor with Mrs. Howie as convener served a dainty lunch during the social hour.

—Autumn colors reached their peak last week in this area.

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Wedding

Fritzley — Kalkowski

St. Paul's United Church was the setting for the wedding of Susan Charmaine Kalkowski to Jerry Frederick Fritzley, Sept. 16 at 3 p.m.

The bride, who works at Robert Newman Shoes, is the daughter of Walter and Lillian Kalkowski of Milton. The groom, an employee of Milton Welding, is the son of Donald and Ruth Fritzley of Campbellville.

Rev. Jim McFadden officiated at the double-ring ceremony. Organist was Mrs. Magee and soloist Maryanne DesJardine. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Carolyn Rankine of London was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were the bride's friends Rosanne Marcantonio and Nancy McKinnon of Milton and the groom's sister, Gail Foster, of Milton.

The bride's brother, Walter Kalkowski, was best man. Ushers were Dave McKinnon of Milton, a friend, and Terry and Allan Fritzley, brothers of the groom. The groom's brother Bradley was ring bearer.

A dinner and dance for 140 guests followed at the Royal Canadian Legion. Tom Rankine, brother-in-law of the bride, was master of ceremonies and proposed the toast to the bride. Out-of-town guests came from Goderich, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Thomas, London, Oakville, Toronto and Kitchener.

The couple, both of whom graduated from Milton District High School, spent a two-week honeymoon in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. They have taken up residence on Millside Dr., in Milton.

Miscellaneous showers

—Milton Camera Club enjoyed a workshop on portraiture, at the Wednesday meeting.



GRADUATES of Milton District High School Susan Kalkowski and Jerry Fritzley were married in St. Paul's United Church Sept. 16. A honeymoon in Jamaica followed.

were given by Mrs. Kalkowski, Carolyn Rankine and Mary Kalkowski, and by Gail Foster, Rosanne Marcantonio and Nancy McKinnon. The attendants gave a buck and doe dance at Pine Street Hall. The bride's wedding dress was designed and made by Rosanne Marcantonio. The wedding cake was made by Mrs. Stan Price.

Mary Jane's

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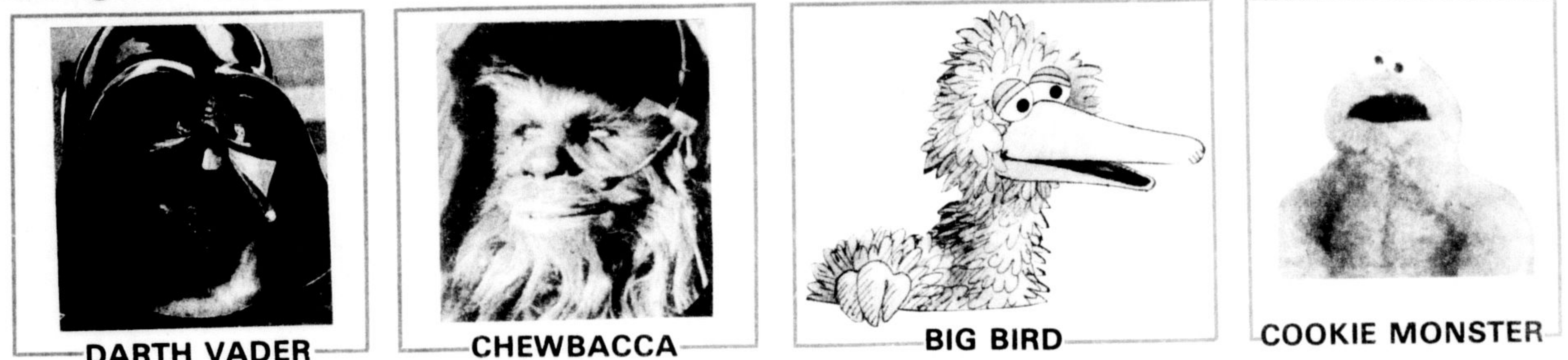


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