

forms look, I don't think he really starts with that necessary idea.

"I don't think there's any level of intellectual involvement. He makes abstract art palatable to a public that is only semi-sophisticated in art. At least he's communicating with a public that has reached a certain level of acceptance—a climbing, upper-middle-class public that WANTS to be sophisticated."

Drumm's knowledge of his materials and his flair for design are not doubted by anybody in knowledgeable art circles. The only question involves the issue of ultimate content—the statement an artist makes in terms that transcend his works' physical elements.

But meanwhile, as craftsman and decorative artist and personality-about-town, Drumm has had an undeniably positive impact on Akron.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Drumm moved into his present studio and foundry on Crouse Street in the Spicertown area. The place was a 60-year-old garage with about a dozen junk cars moldering in front of the building. Drumm began transforming it into a handsome structure with attractive landscaping and sculpture—and he notes proudly that after he started changing the appearance of the property, his next-door neighbor took down her "For Sale" sign and decided to remain.

The building houses the foundry where cast-aluminum items are turned out for the gift market, sales galleries where Drumm's own work and that of some 40 other artists and craftsmen is on display, a comfortable lounging room with the proper Uptown look, and working areas for Drumm.

When he isn't out of town working on commissions, Drumm is very much part of the Spicertown neighborhood. He gads about from his studio, where he supervises the production of aluminum giftware, to Amy Joy Donuts, where he regularly consumes cream sticks and hot chocolate, to Corbin Hardware, where he buys this or that for current projects. He greets half the passersby by name, faking it when memory fails.

Drumm is the father of three girls, and his wife Lisa supervises the gallery, as well as creating her own craft items.

"We say Don does the 'hard' things and I do the 'soft' things—macrame and stitchery and children's toys," says Mrs. Drumm. (One of her creations in the latter category is a stuffed frog with zippered mouth, which opens to reveal a tongue with a fly on it.)

BECAUSE DRUMM'S gallery sells the work of artists and craftsmen from other regions, and because his own work is distributed to similar galleries around the country, the Drumms bump into plenty of artist friends when they travel. But at home, says Mrs. Drumm, the couple doesn't socialize extensively with the local art circle. "We know the whole gang and we have a lot of fun when we get together," she says. "But we don't do it all that often."●

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*"Quite honestly, I think he's superficial. He deals with pure form--and as a designer I don't have anything against pure form, but I don't think of that as art."*

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