

Don Drumm Goes International With Extraordinary Sculptures

By WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

Somedays it seems like Don Drumm is everywhere.

Established area artist Drumm has his signature on a lot of things these days, so it's not uncommon to take a drive down any major road in Akron and see one of his

murals or sculptures displayed prominently on the side of a building or in a courtyard. It's safe to say that, over the past several years, Drumm has become an institution in the Akron area.

The grandson of a blacksmith and the son of a welder/mechanic, Drumm grew up around metals. But instead of seeing their industrial uses, he viewed them from an artistic standpoint. So in his youth, Drumm left behind two years of pre-med studies at Hiram College to pursue his first love — art, receiving first a B.A. then a master's degree in fine arts from Kent State University.

It was during the early months of 1960 that Drumm finally fulfilled one of his wishes as an artist. That was the year he opened his first gallery/studio in an old warehouse behind Firestone Tire on Wilbeth Road. It was also there that he began refining his style, becoming what he likes to call today "an environmental artist."

In 1965, Drumm became the Artist in Residence at Bowling Green State University. With this change in occupation came another change in locale for his studio. It moved to the corner of North and Hower streets — right in the middle of a cluster of industrial plants — appropriately enough.

In 1970, just a year shy of Drumm's departure from Bowling Green, a friend on the city planning commission warned him of an upcoming project that would threaten his location. So he moved his studio/gallery to its current home at 437 Crouse St. in Akron. At

the time it was just an old garage, but with a little sweat and a lot of swinging sledgehammers it soon became one of Akron's most popular galleries.

Drumm, along with his wife Lisa, have managed to turn this small family business into one of the most recognized galleries in Ohio, if not the United States. Drumm's sculptures have been presented to political leaders and celebrities, while his murals are found everywhere from New York City to Brazil and Turkey.

Ask Drumm who's most responsible for his gallery's success and the answer is quick to come. "I couldn't have done any of this without my wife. She's the one who

has the head for business. As a matter of fact, we experienced our greatest growth after my wife quit teaching to join me at the gallery."

Lisa does more than just handle the business end. She is an accomplished artist in her own right, and an adjoining gallery contains quite a few examples of her works.

At any one time, Don Drumm Studios carries up to 300 different artists and their works. The shelves are literally full of everything from handmade jewelry and candle stick holders to detailed South American dart guns and African wall masks. Every one of the artists represented in the gallery are what Drumm likes to call "Designer Craftsmen."



Don Drumm

"When most people hear the word craftsman, they think of someone who makes baskets or brooms. Designer Craftsmen do that also, but create so much more. Jewelry, metal sculptures, pewter — they work in all these mediums to create something beautiful and lasting," Drumm explains.

To bring new things in on a daily basis, wife Lisa works closely with the Ohio Designer Craftsman's group to find the best and the brightest of the artists currently on the scene.

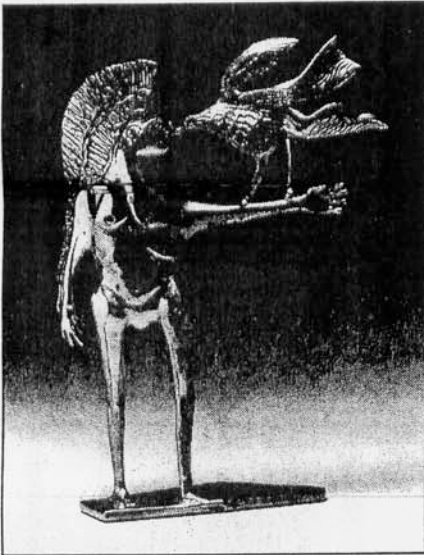
The Drumms highlight some of the more impressive talents during the two to three gallery shows they hold every year. This past fall, they featured artists David Paul Bacharach, a sometimes dentist whose work in metals caught Drumm's eye almost immediately; and Kathleen Totter-Smith, an artist who works in the fragile medium of paper.

While work of this caliber may seem financially out of reach for the less serious collector, a quick tour of the gallery will dispel this common misconception. The works on display are priced to cover overhead and little else, making for quite a few bargains in the process.

"Some collectors from the bigger cities like Chicago or New York City stop in and are amazed at the prices, they think they've found a discount art gallery when in fact the bargains they find here are our everyday prices." Drumm said, remembering the disbelief on some out-of-town patron's faces.

For further information on Don Drumm Studios and Gallery, call 253-6268.

Enjoy Thanksgiving For Friday We Shop!



Yes, Friday is the biggest shopping day of the year. We hope you'll spend part of it at our Holiday Show featuring gifts designed by over 300 top American artists.

Our two-building gallery is filled with jewelry, sculpture, glass, ceramics, ornaments, art clothing, toys and surprises. It's an unique place to bring visiting friends and relatives. Come enjoy!



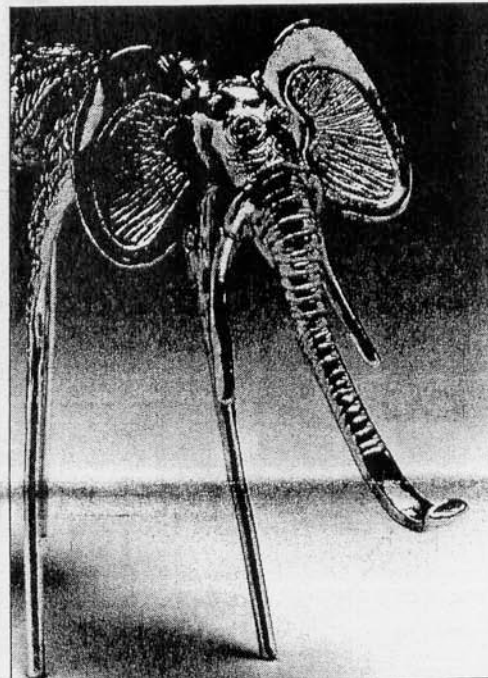
Mon.-Fri. 10-7
Sat. 10-6
Sun. 12-5

DON DRUMM STUDIOS & GALLERY
437 Crouse St., Akron (216) 253-6268

SAM WANNA
HAIR DESIGNERS

WE WELCOME

Sandy Tober worked one year in Germany. She has extensive



This sculpture bears the inimitable Don Drumm stamp.

RENIE'S ART & FRAME LTD.

CREATIVE CUSTOM FRAMING
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

We also have posters, prints & limited editions — golf, florals, seascapes, antique maps, wildlife & much more.

Conveniently located in the
Crown Center Plaza in Montross