

Montana where they visited friends who were starting up their own art school, Elisa described the trip with one word: heaven.

Although the oldest daughter, Tamula, didn't become an artist, her husband, Xiao Ming Song, has contributed in the operations at the Drumm studios and gallery as the person in charge of inventory control and cash flow. Tamula works as the Study Abroad Coordinator for Cleveland State University. It was natural for her to become the adventurer of the family. She was raised to be independent, work hard and respect the arts. Tamula was considered to be the family rebel, (not in the bad sense, but in the sense of one who likes to take a different road in life.) She purposely did not go into art simply because people expected her to, but her adventurous and creative spirit was a driving force.

When Tamula and Xiao Ming married in 1997, it was most unusual for an American woman to marry a Chinese man in China. In old China, it was traditional for the groom to bargain with the father of the bride for her hand in marriage. Because Don could not be present at the wedding in Dalian, China, a friend of theirs stepped in. The ritual of bargaining was playful as they made up dollar amounts and settled on the bottom line that Tamula was in fact, "priceless."

"The sun appears in every religion—it gives life to the earth," said Don. When he was in school, a professor told him that the circle is "one of the most difficult elements to design with because it is a complete form within itself." That idea intrigued Don, and he made a connection between the shape of a circle and the sun. At some point Don became totally fascinated with it, and

the orb with rays emanating from it found its way into Don's consciousness and work. For years the sun has been his signature, albeit a constantly changing one. It seems that it has taken on Don's warm personality and represents his ever-changing styles and constant appetite to create beautiful art.

One of the obvious questions about



Don's work is why he became so involved with aluminum and other metals. Attracted to the "silvery look of aluminum in the fifties," he said he was "hooked to it like a religious experience." This was at a time when many artists considered aluminum cheap cookware.

Don saw something else in the light metal that no one else did. While other craftsmen were busy with steel and bronze metals, Don experimented in the use of aluminum, mastering the use of it and becoming a pioneer in its application in innovative ways many

people could not have imagined.

Lisa Drumm, talented fiber artist that she is, is content in allowing Don to take the main stage. Lisa is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the gallery. She handles the general management, including hiring staff and the financial aspects. Their love for each other is quite evident. They respect one another as artists, making it easy to "speak the language of art" together, and that has contributed to the success of the gallery that is their lifeblood.

Lisa has been creating clever cloth dolls for over twenty years. Her pursuit began when her young daughters asked her for a rocking horse. She asked herself, "Why buy one when you can have the pleasure of sewing one yourself?" This led her to craft one-of-a-kind art dolls, which include little surprises inside the doll. They have been so popular over the years that she now has a full time sewer, leaving her more time to design and to manage the gallery.

Most Akronites have seen the unmistakable, sandblasted Don Drumm mural that was created on the wall of the Route 8 expressway. It seems that Paul Thomarios, a general contractor, "volunteered" Don to create this design. Don acquiesced and

began work. The project required workers to paint over the messy background. As Don was working fastidiously, sketching onto the blank wall, a policeman pulled up. He asked Don what he was doing, and Don explained that he was creating a design on the wall. The officer didn't believe him and, not satisfied with his answer, demanded that he get into the cruiser. Don was shaken up and angry but got in the car and was taken down to the station. The cop accused Drumm of spreading graffiti onto the newly painted wall. The guys in the precinct just laughed as the two walked in. "That's Don Drumm! We all