

know Don," they said.

The next day, a cruiser again drove up to the wall where Don was at work. Don nervously turned his head toward the policeman and thought, "Here we go again." Instead, the officer apologized to Don about his mistake and offered to buy him coffee.

From the journey of a metalworker to a master craftsman, Don's magnificent sculptures have been commissioned worldwide. His work is found in residences, corporations, businesses and public spaces. Don's ability to transform concepts from jewelry to major works of art is quite remarkable.

Don is dyslexic, while Lisa is hearing impaired. While that may be annoying to them, they have never let it get in the way of doing what they love to do. Don does not work on the computer, but prefers to sketch with his hands, in true artist fashion.

"I am the voice of caution; he is the voice of adventure," is how Lisa describes the balance between herself and Don. At one point Don wanted to open a restaurant next to the gallery. He told the idea to Lisa, who said, "You see this pottery in my hands? If we don't sell it today, we can sell it tomorrow or next week or next year. This head of lettuce—if we don't sell it today, it will probably be thrown in the garbage tomorrow." With that reasoning, Don said, "You're absolutely right," and scrapped the idea.

Don and Lisa complement each other well, and it is easy to understand why they have been so successful with their business and equally successful as parents. They welcome shoppers to the gallery, which is a feast for the eyes, whether you come to shop or browse. It is a guarantee that once you stop in, you will definitely be back. You will likely see Lisa coordinating jewelry or accessories with her staff, or Don poking his

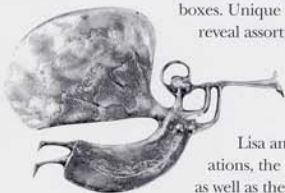
head into the gallery from his studio.

"The very fact that we have survived in Akron this long is due in fact to the community support that we have received over the years, for which we are very grateful," said Lisa. "There are no illegitimate forms of art," and, "The



Don Drumm's Sculpture Garden and Fence, his popular Peace Angel and Lisa Drumm's soft sculptures, Jonah and the Whale, Humpty Dumpty and the Caterpillar

Photos by Liz Fennell



more art, the better," are quotes from Don that show his appreciation for all art. They are "art humanitarians," in their contributions to the Akron community and beyond.

Both Don and Lisa are meticulous in every detail of the two gallery shops that are side by side. Upon entering either gallery, it is almost as though one is walking into a painting, the intense colors and textures hit your senses in the most marvelous way. On closer

Greater Akron's Ten

The people, places and events that have reshaped this area.

March: The New Civic

April: Canal Park

May: The Metro and National Parks

June: National Inventors Hall of Fame

July: Soap Box Derby

August: The NEC Invitational

September: Downtown Akron Nightlife

October: University of Akron, Kent State

University and their presidents

November: Don Drumm and local art

January: Watch for the last of this series.

inspection, you will see the amazing assortment of exquisitely hand-crafted, functional and non-functional objects, such as bowls and wall décor, for every taste.

Clever glass boxes hold colorful, artistic treasures that are a delight for the eyes, such as jewelry, paperweights and boxes. Unique drawers slide open to reveal assortments of jewelry in

every style and material. Scattered throughout the shops, you will find

Lisa and Don's beautiful creations, the art of their daughters, as well as the works of over five hundred, hand-picked artists nationwide.

Personal service is very important to the Drumms and their staff. A lasting impression is left with each customer as their artistic selections are carefully wrapped in brightly colored tissue papers, gently placed in a trademark Drumm logo bag, tied with dangling curled ribbons.

Music to the Drumms' ears is, "You bought me a Drumm!" an exclamation that is echoed at weddings and parties throughout the Akron area. This is the culmination of hard work, a dream and a family who have been tied together through their love of art and each other. **A**