



Please define personal space

'PORTRAIT OF G. CROPPER/RAPUNSEL III'
This color woodcut by Mark Sisson of Stillwater, Okla., received the Graphic Chemical and Ink Company's Purchase Award. It will be on view in the Delta National Small Prints Exhibition. Sisson earned his BFA from the University of Michigan and his MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

First Delta show is culmination of ASU artist's dream

By HAZEL ASHCRAFT

Sun Staff Writer

In 1963 Evan Lindquist stepped onto the campus of Arkansas State University as a member of the art faculty, and with him he brought a long-harbored dream.

Thirty-three years later, Lindquist is beginning to see his dream bear fruit, and its bounty will be visible to all on Sunday, Nov. 3, with the debut of the first Delta National Small Prints Exhibition, opening at 7 in the evening in the Fine Arts Gallery at ASU.

"I'd thought about this since 1963," Lindquist says of the exhibition, "but I've actually been working on it actively for four years, and very actively during last year.

"And it has consumed my life for the last two months."

One might say that art has consumed Lindquist's life since he was a child, and so has his love for museums. When he was growing up on the plains of Kansas, his parents would take him, once a year, to visit the Field Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago, some 700 miles away.

"My parents had great aspirations for us," he says. "Also, several times a year, we would go to Kansas City, 121 miles away, to visit the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum."

Those museum visits continued as he went on to the Emporia State University and the University of

Northeast Arkansas artists' creations to be featured in show

Included in the first Delta National Small Prints Exhibition is the work of four Northeast Arkansas artists — Gayle Ross, Becky McNeill, Piero Trimarchi and Curtis Steele, all of Jonesboro — and Gima Jansen-Mickey of Paragould.

Accompanying the exhibition is a 48-page, four-color catalog, copies of which will be mailed all over the nation to major museums, artists, art centers and art magazines.

SEE NORTHEAST— 13D

Iowa, where he earned a master of fine arts degree.

"It was as an art student at the University of Iowa that he met a

SEE FIRST— 13D

Mrs. Power, a Republican organizer in northeastern Arkansas.

Her political scientist colleague English, a Democrat, questioned whether voters are convinced Bryant possesses "senatorial stature" even though he has never lost a statewide contest.

First

man from "Cedar Rapids, 20 miles away, (who) had a passion for collecting prints and had devoted many years to the enjoyment of gathering them. He and his wife had this wild dream that a big, new art museum would be built at the University of Iowa. So in 1962, they offered to donate their large collection of etchings and engravings to the university.... Today, the University of Iowa has a splendid Museum of Art with a professional staff, and many outstanding collections in 16 galleries, drawing people from around the world to study famous works of art which are not accessible in New York, Paris, or elsewhere."

If they could have a museum of such stature in Iowa, Lindquist thought, would it be so wild a dream to think that they could have one in Jonesboro? In 1963, when he arrived here, many of Jonesboro's citizens would drive to Little Rock, or Memphis, or even St. Louis, to attend art events and shop.

"Since 1963," he says, "I've dreamed of the time when people from Memphis, St. Louis and Little Rock would come to Jonesboro to attend exhibitions they could not get at home. And they might do a little shopping at the same time.

"I want people of other states and other cities to find that it is worth their time and effort to travel to Jonesboro. I dream of a day when people in metropolitan art centers all over the land will have to make a difficult choice: Should we go to New York, or should we go to Jonesboro?"

That particular Lindquist dream may be far away, and perhaps it will never become an actuality, but to this man who has become nationally and internationally known as an artist-printmaker-educator, the first step has been taken with the creation of the Delta National Small Prints Exhibition.

Three years ago, Lindquist met a couple he calls "central characters in my long-held vision." Like the couple in Iowa who gave their collection to the university, Hasselle and Judy McCain became major players in the creation of the Delta Art Gallery when they asked if ASU could use five drawings from their fine collection by the late Carroll Cloar, one of the nation's leading artists and a native of Earle. The drawings were accepted, and were to be — along with a major collection from Cloar's archives which his widow had planned to place in the newly dedicated Dean B. Ellis Library at the university, which was originally thought would be the home of the Delta Art Gallery. When Mrs. Cloar withdrew her offer and a decision was made to abandon that plan, Lindquist says, some might have thought of it as a setback, "but the dream was larger than its parts," and what he called "the magnificent generosity" of the McCains was a major component in the development.

The Cloar drawings, along with a number of the artist's works previously donated to the university from several art patrons, will serve as the focal point for the Delta Art Gallery, now to be expanded to include a broad selection of artwork. The art gallery itself will be housed in a new performing arts center to be constructed on Olympic Drive, south of the ASU Convocation Center.

The facility, estimated to cost between \$7 and \$8 million, was designed by the Jonesboro architectural firm of Brackett and Krennerich, designers of the Dean B. Ellis Library addition. It is scheduled to be complete in 1999, and will serve as a home for the art gallery and three theaters, including a 1,000-seat performance hall, a 350-seat

theatrical auditorium, and a practice hall for accommodating up to 250 people.

In planning for the gallery, Lindquist says, "I've had some great assets to work with. I've had encouragement from Dr. Les Wyatt and Dr. Ruth Hawkins, wonderful production help from Ron Looney, Mark Reeves, Tom Manning and Becky McNeill. I've consulted with the members of a special committee consisting of Jan Troutt, Claudia Shannon, Ruth Hawkins, Dr. Russ Shain, Dr. Charlott Jones, Curtis Steele, Dr. William Allen, Bill Rowe, and John Salvest. It is really a team effort."

The result is an upcoming exhibition of impressive dimensions, 73 works from 114 artists who entered a total of 305 pieces, representing 38 states.

Ruth Weisberg, dean of fine arts at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, served as juror.

"I was honored to be asked to be the first juror of the Delta National Small Prints Exhibition," Weisberg says, calling it "a very auspicious beginning" and "another encouraging sign of the vitality of printmaking across the country. The DNSPE is off to a great start, and I'm sure it will grow and flourish in the coming years, in a large part due to the active and enlightened support of the university and the community-minded people of the Arkansas Delta Region. Over time it will provide a significant and valuable print and photography collection for Arkansas State University, as well as a cultural event of regional and national importance."

"Our university lies within the vast Mississippi River Delta," says ASU President Leslie Wyatt, "a region rich in musical and literary heritage based upon the land. The region also has affected the work of many visual artists. It is appropriate that we sponsor the Delta National Exhibition as a way to preserve and promote the artistic influences which shape the culture of the land around us... Seeing and wondering are the essential pieces of our heritage in the Delta. These basic experiences, so common to all of us who attend art galleries or create the art itself, are brought together with exquisite clarity in the Delta National Show. We are proud to have it on our campus, and glad to share it with you."

This first exhibition, says Lindquist, its director, "will demonstrate to everybody that the arts are an important part of our culture. This exhibition, I think, will do it.... I see a lot of things happening. In a couple of years this will be a model for a national drawing exhibition, and shortly after that, a national photography exhibition, and later, computer art. We can be influential in a lot of ways."

And, Lindquist adds, "in three years — 1999, I have a goal — of getting this to be our international exhibition. I want to bring prints from all over the world. It's very likely to happen."

With his long-cherished dream a reality at last, for Lindquist the next dream is not so wild a dream at all.

Northeast

Catalog pre-press production was prepared by *The Jonesboro Sun*, and printing was by Redbook Printing Production. In addition, major contributors to the effort were Curt and Chucki Bradbury of Little Rock and Evan and Sharon Lindquist of Jonesboro.

Purchase Awards were provided by Mary Ann Arnold, Marked Tree; First Bank of Arkansas, Jonesboro; Hummelstein Iron and Metal, Jonesboro; Hytrol Conveyor Co. Inc., Jonesboro; Graphic Chemical and Ink Co., Villa Park, Ill.; Jim and Wanda Vaughn of Delaplaine; Hal and Pam Hyneman, and Ben and Janet Hyneman, all of Jonesboro.

Additional funding was provided by the Gregg Funeral Home, Hummelstein Iron and Metal Inc., Pete and Frances Kemp, Dr. and Mrs.