

POLAR ZERO—Robert Hunter, a unique artist who is in Chapel Hill on leave from Clemson University this year on a Ford Foundation grant, displays an epoxy paint and plexiglas painting-sculpture entitled "Polar Zero." Hunter told DTH Art Reviewer Owen Lewis that he is "trying to say something that is meaningful today."

Painting Or Sculpture? It Doesn't Really Matter

"No sculptor calls them sculpture, and no painter calls them paintings," said Robert Hunter of his works which I call sculpture and he calls painting.

Hunter works in the round and in relief. "It makes no difference except in the psychology of viewing," he said. Hunter has a five-foot relief of construction board with an abstract black and white drawing superimposed on it in the current Art on Paper exhibit at the Weatherspoon Gallery at UNC at Greensboro through Dec. 16.

"I am trying to say something that is meaningful today, but it will not be understood today," Hunter said. "Young adults seem most responsive to my work. They are not so conditioned but that they can respond to new ideas and new images."

Hunter, 37, is a native of Washington state, and holds BS and MA degrees from the University of Oregon. He is working here this academic year through a Ford Foundation grant in the UNC-Duke Cooperative Program in the Humanities. The first painter to get such a grant, he has no teaching duties, but works all day, six days a week, football games included in a studio in a World War II surplus shack called New East annex.

Hunter is on leave from

Clemson University, where he has been teaching in the school of architecture for 10 years. Mainly Hunter works in Plexiglas, polyester resin, Fiberglass, epoxy or polymer media. "Plexiglass lets you see

They are either concerned with the object or its background, but not in between," he said. "I think that everything I do becomes extremely primitive in one sense. One is immediately taken by illusory, tactile connotations. It almost becomes magical. I keep feeling that many of these are like cave paintings, the tribesman's creating a statement about his life," he said.

Hunter is trying to develop "paintings that can be used indoors or out, and he is concerned with the use of light and with mysticism. When I visited his studio he was working on a big bird shape, seven feet long by five feet high, and a big fish shape, eight feet long by 26 inches high.

"I call them environmental relief paintings," he said. "The relief is not for form's sake alone, but for the illusion of form."

"Life has little or no significance to me except when I'm doing these things. I'm frantic when I'm not working. I have missionary zeal. I feel they are something. I'm a believer when I'm doing. When I'm not doing, I'm neutral.

"I speak of life, not of social events or involvement that most of the artists today speak of. I am not by plan or intention individualistic. I just don't fit into any school," he said.

Art World

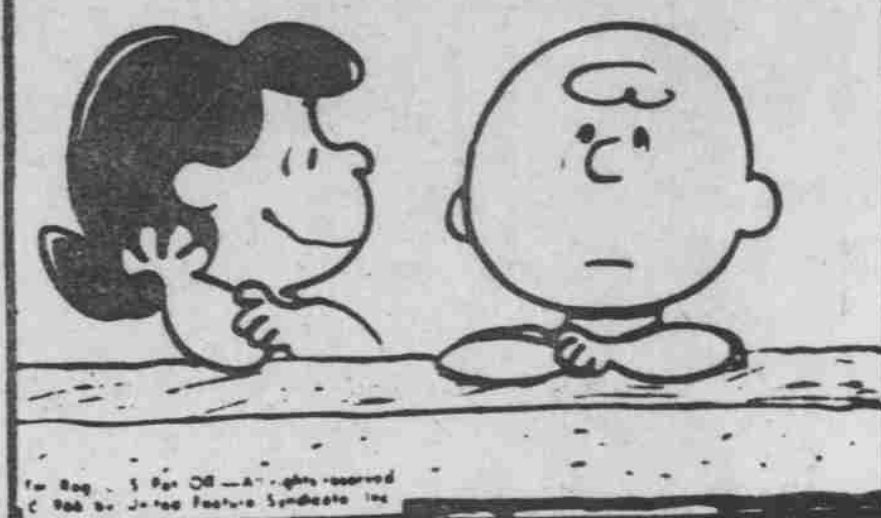
By OWEN LEWIS

through," he said, "for a multi-leveled view."

The idea of the space-time continuum is pretty basic to Hunter's approach. "Time is a man-conceived concept. Man's view, not time itself changes. Our particular view of the universe has changed, not the universe itself," he said.

"I have tried not to pick out specific objects from nature, but I pick out the essence, the feeling of the things. Three is a basic combination — sea animal, plant form, land animal, interchanged and intermixed. The idea I've been trying to capture is that the object doesn't exist without everything else not being the object. Mine is an imagery which is so nebulous it is difficult to grasp. This is a view artists haven't taken before.

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Santa Is Thin And Sporty On South American Visits

BUENOS AIRES (UPI) — Santa wears short sleeves when he ventures into South America, but in spite of the reversed seasons and a heavy religious emphasis on the holidays, Christmas is a gay and cheerful affair.

It is a time for families to gather, to pray and to reflect on life, but also a time for "fiestas," fast music, gift-giving and for tasty, sometimes spicy holiday foods.

In Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia, as with many other Catholic countries, Christmas begins with a Christmas Eve midnight mass. In Argentina after mass the families return home to small pine trees decorated with paper ornaments and, in the European tradition, a big late dinner and gift-exchange.

Argentines love to eat, and Christmas is the best day of all: turkey, chicken, nuts and a special Christmas bread are must items. Often the meat dishes are prepared outdoors, in gaucho "asado" style, and are preceded by a series of creamy cold salad dishes. For drinks there are champagne, wines, and in the poorer homes, a less-expensive bubbly drink called sidra.

Emphasis in Uruguay and Argentina falls not just on Christmas but the "twelve days." Children re-enact passion plays and shoot fireworks throughout the period and in Uruguay they play a game called "Burning Judas," in which a crude puppet is made to represent Christ's betrayer and is burned on a stake. The wealthier Uruguayan and Argentine families head for the beaches during the holidays, especially to the resort cities of Mar del Plata, in Argentina, and Punta del Este, Uruguay.

CARVED FIGURES
Across the Andes Mountains in Chile, carved and porcelain figures of "nino Jesus" (the Christ child) are used in store windows and homes as decorations alongside images of "Papa Noel," as Santa Clause is known here.

Pine trees and homes are strung with colored lights several days before Christmas and on Christmas Eve Chileans begin visiting their neighbors and their favorite shopkeepers, bringing gifts and tasting Christmas sweets and meats.

Peruvian children use fireworks and their parents use champagne to celebrate the birth of Christ. Holding to Spanish tradition, they hold midnight masses and suppers, but the modern influence is evident, especially in Lima: Santa, gift exchanges between family and friends and gay decorations. Hot chocolate and fruit cake are sweets of the season.

In Venezuela, corn, wheat and dolls are the elements of Christmas festivity. Wheat goes

into a delicious cereal mixture called "La Patria de Bolivar" which is served on Christmas morning, and the corn, freshly ground, is mixed with pork, beef, chicken and a thick sauce

Christmas In Other Lands

to make a difficult dinner dish, "hallaca."

The dolls are carved to resemble the baby Jesus, and are placed beside the beds of children in "Nochebuena," the 24th of December. When the children awaken Christmas day, they find gifts brought by the baby Jesus.

Bolivians love to sing and so to them Christmas is a time for gay, spirited music as well as the traditional Christmas

songs. Streets are adorned with religious symbols and the day centers around a mass, family gatherings and an elaborate dinner with seven different kinds of meats.

Brazilians, especially in the large coastal cities, go to the beaches for Christmas, a day dedicated to children. Meals include wine, nuts, cakes and a special dish called feijoada, rice and thickly sauced black beans cooked slowly with dried meats. In the northeast, Christmas meals are spicy fish dishes, tasty but hot as the December sun.

The father of the family traditionally give gifts on Christmas day to his children, but women of the country have successfully altered the tradition. Now they get gifts from their husbands as well.

And Santa Clause is known in Brazil, but not as the jolly old fat man. Like most Brazilians he is usually short and rather thin, and not known for jovialness. Who could be jolly with all those clothes during a Brazilian Christmas?

Buddhists Observe Singapore Yuletide

SINGAPORE (UPI)—Singaporeans this year will be celebrating their brightest Christmas in three years—free from the shadow of Indonesia's confrontation.

The entire city will go on holiday although the estimated 60,000 Christians form only about 3 per cent of the multi-racial population of 2 million which is 75 per cent Chinese. This 224.5 square-mile former British colony celebrates Christmas in much the same way as other countries. Church services will be held, and the city will resound with Christmas carols.

To the people of various races here, Christmas is another religious celebration and a national holiday. The non-Christians will join in exchanging Christmas greetings. They will throng gaily-decorated night clubs and take part in Christmas carols.

CHRISTIAN OBSERVANCE
The Christians, dressed in their best, will attend church services, midnight Masses and go caroling into the late hours. In their homes, scores of Christmas cards will be arrayed around colorfully lit Christmas trees.

Members of the Commonwealth armed forces will observe the occasion in their traditional way. They and their families will attend services

in small churches near military establishments and gather at parties.

For a few weeks before and after Christmas the spirit of good will will prevail. Department stores and other shops will be packed with Christmas shoppers.

Night clubs, dance halls, amusement parks, cinema halls and restaurants will enjoy the seasonal boom and remain open well past the normal midnight closing time.

It will be a Merry Christmas here for Christians and their Buddhist, Moslem and Hindu neighbors.

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