

# Spotlight

## Verwoerd immerses himself in work of artistic creation

By VICKI HYMAN  
Staff Writer

Mark Verwoerd shakes his head and laughs when asked how much time he spends on his art.

"Every minute I have, I'm drawing or painting or something. Every minute that I'm not doing something else, just so I won't be sitting still."

It's that kind of dedication that makes Verwoerd, a senior art major from Durham, one of the most promising art students at UNC.

Verwoerd has been experimenting with many different genres of art, such as painting, printmaking and lithography, but right now, his emphasis is on acrylic on paper.

"My professor calls it neo-expressionism. It's collage orientation — I take one piece of paper and paint on it,

then add to it or cut away from it, depending on what I need."

His work relies on keen perception and planning. "I go out with a sketchboard and start drawing things, certain shapes or circumstances repeating themselves. I see what images are behind it and transfer it into a series of drawings."

But Verwoerd also spends time with other forms of art. "You just go out there to do what you want to do. You see something, and you might want to do it as a print because there is a certain quality about it. Or you might see something and decide to paint it."

He now is working on illustrations, such as hand-drawn cartoons and portraits.

Verwoerd has had showings of his work in Hillsborough, at the Campus Y

and several at the Hanes Art Center.

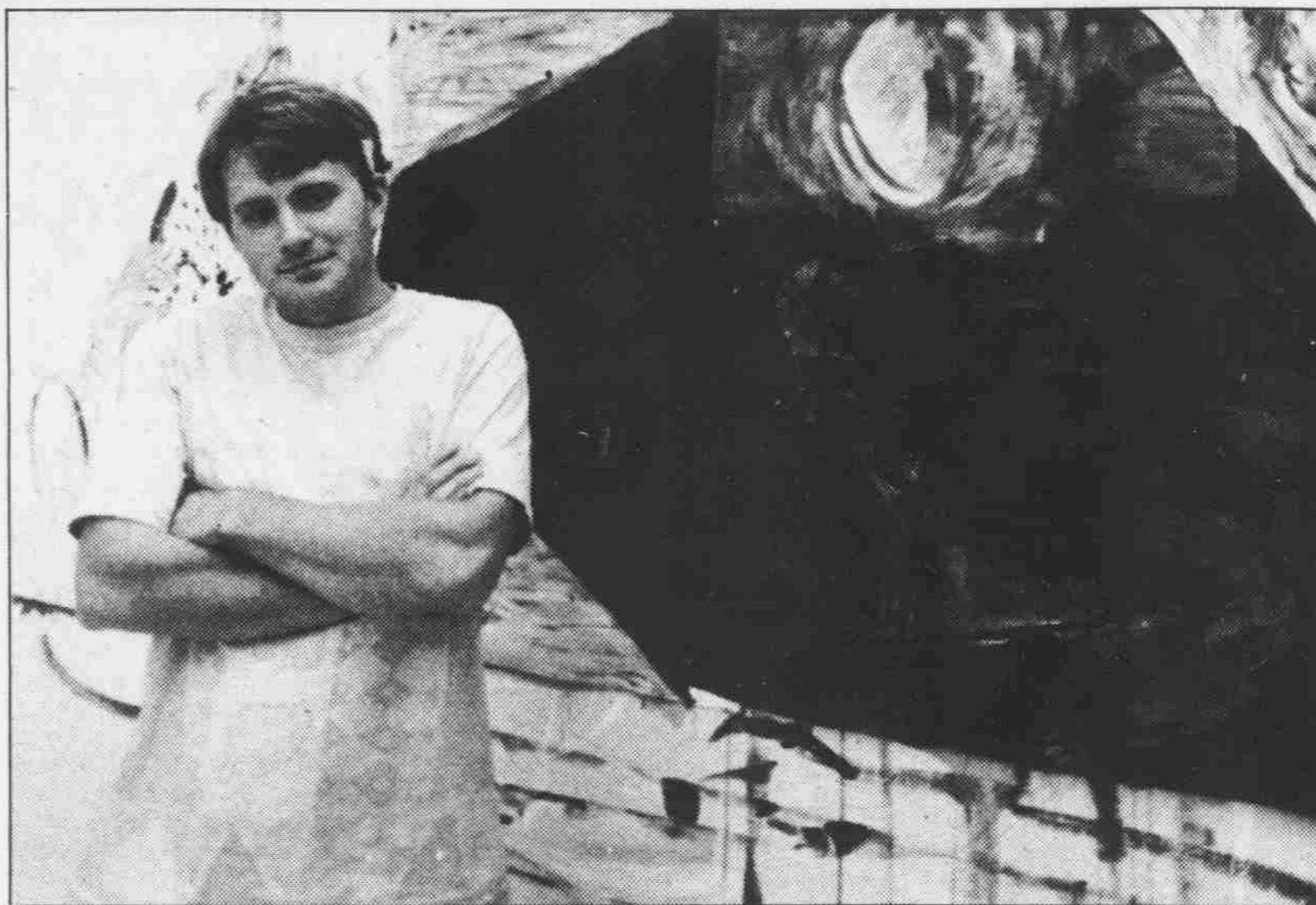
He said he enjoyed being a student artist. "It's a way to stand out ... I have this painting suit and when I walk down the street, people try not to look at me. They sort of stare at me out of the corner of their eye."

Verwoerd plans to attend graduate school in art, and said he would probably end up teaching. "What you do with art is fairly academic, unless somebody wants it for purely aesthetic reasons. I'll teach, because that's what it's all about."

Verwoerd has immersed himself in art since high school. After graduation, he studied in Italy and taught art history in Rome at age 19. "I knew about Italian art, which had a lot of influence on Western art. I studied the Renaissance influence. Then I came here, (where) the influence is on many different things."

Art is not just something you appreciate, but something you need in order to become well-rounded, according to Verwoerd. "A painting is just for aesthetic reasons or for education. It's going to give you a little something to think about or to look at. You don't need that to survive, but you need that to have a full mind."

People who are not involved in art don't always realize its importance, he said. "When people ask me what classes I'm taking, and I tell them painting, printmaking, (or) whatever, they say, 'So you're not taking any real classes.' They don't think it's important, but it is. It's necessary, unless you don't think



Mark Verwoerd with a sample of his work

DTH/ Evan File

your mind is important." Abstract thinking is an intrinsic part of art appreciation, according to Verwoerd. "There are some people in child

development who say that at age 12, a child begins to think abstractly, though there are some people who never achieve it. They can't take two separate

things and join them together and make something. When you study art, you have a much wider angle of visual perception."

## ArtsCenter premiere shows new emphasis

By WENDY GRADY  
Staff Writer

The ArtsCenter in Carrboro will put

its spotlight on community theater tonight with a premiere of Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage and her

Children."

The play will mark the first step in the center's expansion of its drama programs. "As the ArtsCenter has grown progressively more ambitious in its concert bookings, theater has been upgraded with the rest of our offerings," said Bett Wilson, communications director for the center.

While the center prides itself on promoting alternative types of programming, this season it is also seeking more intellectual plays, said Malcolm Wills, newly hired program director. "We're getting away from the war horses of typical community theater. Our season is more academic," he said.

"Mother Courage," one of Brecht's more tragic plays, will be directed by Tom Marriott. According to Marriott, "Mother Courage is wonderful, and she is horrible. Here she is, pulling her canteen wagon and her family through the battlefields of the 30 Years War. She's trying to keep herself and her family alive and safe through a business which not only depends on the war, but directly contributes to it."

Brecht believed that war "makes human virtues fatal, even to their possessors," Marriott said. "We can learn much more about war and war makers from observing Mother Courage's mistakes than we can by watching the nightly news."

UNC drama professor Pat Barnett, who is also an actor with PlayMakers' Repertory Company, has been cast as Mother Courage. Other actors in the production include: Coro Malaxecheverri as Katrin, Mark Miller as Swiss Cheese, Phillip Boehm as Elif, Joel Carter as the chaplain, Deborah Winstead-Mann as Yvette and Richard Burgwin as the cook.

With cleared space and improved technical work, the center plans to focus more on the needs of community theater-goers.

"The need for a community theater program has been growing for some time. The desire and talent are out there and, with the support of the community, we will provide an outlet for it," Wills said. "This is the ArtsCenter's first-ever full season of community theater, and the only community theater program in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area."

In addition to continuing resident companies such as Transactors Improv Company and New Plays Rising (which has premiered nearly 30 plays), the ArtsCenter is beginning a youth theater company and a Families Night Out series.

Executive Director Aubrey Bowie said that he looked forward to a theater program with trained actors, rising community actors and children, who will all be challenged by working under trained directors.

Upcoming plays include Joe Orton's "Loot" and Moliere's "The Doctor in Spite of Himself." Selected works by local playwrights will be performed by New Plays Rising.

The ArtsCenter's community theater season is funded in part by a grant from the town of Chapel Hill. The N.C. Arts Council and the Orange County Arts Commission, along with Glaxo, also contributed to each company.

For more information on performances, call 929-ARTS. The ArtsCenter is a non-profit arts organization located at 300-G East Main Street in Carrboro, N.C.

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rial Hall. John Sanders, director of the Institute of Government, said the convocation was traditionally held in Memorial Hall. "Last year it was held outdoors (Polk Place) because it was coupled with the inauguration of the chancellor."

Past University Days have dedicated buildings, installed chancellors and presented awards to artists, educators and statesmen. Secretary of State Dean Rusk was the featured speaker in 1960. President John Kennedy spoke to a crowd of 32,000 and received an honorary degree in 1961. In 1978, Andy Griffith received a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Old East was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966, and the Student Stores, the Student Union and the Undergraduate Library were dedicated in 1969.

"University Day is very important because it causes us to look at our past and celebrate the legacy," Boulton said. "Those of us who are here should strive to keep up this University where it is."

Sanders said University Day was a time to renew commitment to education.

"It is a time to remember the reasons for the University, and the contributions and sacrifices made for it. It is one of the two ceremonial occasions that are symbolic because they bring the campus together for something other than athletics. The other time is commencement."

Friday said University Day brought the students and community together.

"It is a moment when we stop and pause to think of the long and proud history of this university and those who have come before us. It challenges us for the future."