

# Orange County tour gives public glimpse into area artists' studios

■ The ArtsCenter will sponsor the Open Studio Tour this weekend.

BY CHRIS BARGE  
STAFF WRITER

Broken wrists can be blessings in disguise. Monnda Welch, a local jeweler, discovered that fact firsthand when an injury took her away from her craft one year ago and gave her time to focus on a project she had wanted to start for some time.

Welch rounded up a group of artists from Orange County and organized them into the first Orange County Open Studio Tour. Art enthusiasts from all over the Triangle jumped at the chance to invade the artists' studios. "I had a wonderful, wonderful turnout," she said of the fall 1995 event.

Saturday and Sunday, those of us who may have missed the first year's tour will have a chance to join in the adventure, when 36 local artists will open their studios to the public for the second annual Orange County Open Studio Tour.

A spectra of media, colors and forms currently litter the walls and floor of Center Gallery at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro where many of this weekend's artists have their pieces on display. Everything from quilts to photography, to quilted photography, to oils and water-colors hang from the walls of the gallery.

Pottery, furniture, sculptures and jewelry stand on podiums above the floor.

If you are interested in seeing what other artists in the county have crafted with their healthy wrists this weekend, the ArtsCenter is a good place to start. You can go there first and get a feel for their work. Then find a couple of artists who strike your fancy and call them up. They'll give you directions to their studios and answer any questions you want to ask before visiting them Nov. 16 or 17.

Welch said both the exhibit and the open-studio tour served to build community. "It's a good time because you get to see how the artists live," she said.

While none of the art on display at the ArtsCenter through Nov. 19 ties into a common theme, some of the pieces deserve mentioning here because they are simply wacky and neat.

Francine Blouin's "Memories," a quilted photography scrapbook, is a gallant experiment in picture framing and screen printing. I did wonder, however, whether Uncle Bill knew that his bare-chested mug shot on the beach would end up one day in an art gallery.

Cely Chicurel's "Dragon on a Hill" reminds me of those clay dragons I tried to build in my fourth-grade art class but never managed to pull off. In stark contrast to my preadolescent attempts, Chicurel's sculpture does not look like a nondescript animal atop a lump of clay. It stays true to its title.

In the vein of more abstract art, Guy Wilken's "Morning on the Other Side of

the World" combines many layered, murky shades of rust for an overall sleepy effect which reminds me of nothing I tried to paint in the fourth grade, although I would like to have known this artist then. My art teacher was crabby.

Keith Allen's "Yo, George" simultaneously represents chaos and order with its roughly finished pecan table top and silkily crafted walnut and mahogany legs. "Yo Keith," I'm thinking, "that's one brilliantly confused piece of furniture."

Finally, Riley Foster's "Party Guy" stands apart from the rest. Hanging out next to a floor plant in the center of the gallery, this collage of car parts and sprinkler heads actually jiggles as you pass him. Interactive art — the future of our community's junkyards.

"This is not a juried show," Welch said. There is, however, one stipulation where standards are concerned. "No painting by numbers," she said. "It has to be from the spirit."

But not all of the participating artists are represented at the ArtsCenter. The best way to map out your own personalized Studio Tour this weekend is to pick up a brochure listing the artists' names, media, phone numbers and addresses and call the artists directly.

Brochures can be obtained from the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors' Bureau, Manires Goldsmiths in Carr Mill Mall, the Skylight Exchange and from the participating artists. They are also available from the ArtsCenter itself, located on Main Street in Carrboro.

# Officials say liquor ads hard to swallow

BY JEFF YOUNG  
STAFF WRITER

Not since the infancy of broadcast media has hard liquor advertising been seen or heard, but liquor ads may soon be visiting a television or radio near you.

Officials from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States announced last week that their self-imposed bans on television and radio advertising, which had been in effect since 1948 and 1936, respectively, were hindering competition with the beer and wine industries.

Sales of distilled spirits dropped 27 percent between 1980 and 1995. Beer producers, who spent most of \$720 million in advertising on television spots in 1995, saw their sales increase 5 percent over the same period, according to the New York Times.

While DISCUS cited the fact that no study has ever correlated alcohol advertising with alcohol usage, Sarah Kayson, director of public policy for the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency, said she was concerned.

"There are also no studies that confirm the opposite either," she said. "It's common sense to know there must be a relationship; why would the liquor companies be willing to spend millions in advertising in an effort to gain more cus-

tomers if there was no correlation? "It's absolutely ridiculous for them to claim there is no effect from advertising."

DISCUS also claimed there was no justifiable basis for treating the advertising of distilled spirits differently than other beverage alcohol advertising.

Since the announcement, national backlash has been extensive.

President Bill Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., made public their dissent of the liquor industry's plans this weekend.

They have been joined by the Federal Communications Commission, the National Association of Broadcasters, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and the NCADD, who have each attacked the lifting of the ban.

Additionally, all four major networks said they will not run liquor advertising.

"We understand and share the same concerns as the president and others," said Mark Schuermann, assistant director of the public issues division of DISCUS. Schuermann said DISCUS is aware of the reasons people fear the advertising.

"We take the issues of alcohol abuse and teenage drinking very seriously," he said. "Our advertising will continue to be guided by the 26 provisions of our code; these ensure responsible content and placement of spirit advertising."

The DISCUS Code of Good Practice, in effect and updated since 1934, outlines proper marketing and advertising practices for liquor producers. Part of the Code Schuermann referred to includes rules against advertising or conducting marketing activities on college campuses.

Despite assurances from DISCUS regarding advertising content, Kayson said she believed the liquor ads will parallel beer and wine ads that equate alcohol consumption with glamour and success.

"We think this debate will be a great opportunity for the public to take a hard look at those ads as well," she said.

It appears doubtful that Triangle area television viewers will be privy to liquor advertising. Television stations WTVD, WFLA and Time Warner Cable have said they will not air liquor advertising.

Officials from WRAL-TV reviewed their policy of not accepting advertising for liquor companies and said they will maintain it.

Quinn Koonpiz, general sales manager for WRAL, who had already viewed tapes sent by some liquor television ads, expressed a common sentiment felt by local broadcasters.

"Our reputation and position in the community are more important than any potential revenue (from liquor advertising),"

## STUDENT ADVISORY

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McIntyre said. "It will allow students to bring needs to the BOT," she said. "(Also), it will give the BOT consistent access to student concerns."

Four graduate students and six to eight students affiliated with specific organiza-

tions will constitute the committee, McIntyre said. Any students not affiliated with an organization can nominate themselves for an at-large position.

BOT member Angela Bryant said she was pleased with the idea. "Any way we can keep the students in the forefront of our minds is good," she said.

But Brenda Kirby, BOT assistant secretary, questioned the role of the proposed committee when student governments Student Affairs Committee already advised the BOT.

In the first year, committee members would be selected by student leaders, McIntyre said. For following years outgoing committee members would select incoming committee members.

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