

Drawings display art class taboos, too flashy for decor

By Jim Williams

Christopher Hickey, drawings, Sheldon Art Shop, through March 19.

Making the risky assumption that you have the money, there are three reasons you might buy a work of art.

art review

The purchase might simply have knocked your socks off, and you just had to have it. Or you might have bought it as a speculative investment, just like a carload of frozen pork bellies. Or it might be because you've re-decorated your conference room and you wanted something classy that looks good with the wallpaper.

Christopher Hickey's drawings at the Sheldon Art Shop are in for a tough go. None of Hickey's pencil-and-pastel works had the zap to make me want one for my very own; trading on Hickey's eventual stardom is a risky business at best; but the drawings have an odd, attention-attracting quality that makes them too obtrusive for mere decor.

Hickey's works display things they taught us to avoid in art class—erasures, an occasional smudge, heavy

outlines of objects. Hickey tries to reduce his subjects to fundamental outline forms, then highlight areas of special interest with color or a crosshatch technique usually seen in ink drawings.

This technique works best on No. 10 (the drawings are identified only by number.) It's a light, simple composition of linear forms—a door, a radiator, some potted plants. Tones are limited to light crosshatching in the plants and radiator, and enough tone to draw attention to the focal point—a brassiere hanging on the doorknob.

The outline technique doesn't come off as well on No. 3, the other drawing in which it's most noticeable. Here the forms are not so linear—a naked girl face down, a twisted sheet over her legs. Applying the same technique to this less-suitable subject gives it the look of a Target sale catalog without the latter's redeeming simplicity.

Several more of Hickey's works include similar themes—annoyed-looking naked girls and their personal effects poking in from the margins of the drawings. Here a torso, a sink and a box of Playtex deodorant tampons; there a woman scowling in a chair; over there a creature that looks like Ringo Starr in a training bra, standing against an unpleasantly colored wall.

These drawings still are minimal, the essential outlines with a few significant details shaded in. They look like something a talented sophomore could knock out in a couple of hours.

Besides the aforementioned No. 5, there were two drawings in the group I especially liked—No 9 is more


full shaded than most of the other drawings and in it Hickey gets away from depicting a single scene. It is a strongly horizontal scene with a photographic perspective, incorporating repeating variations of a, you guessed it, naked girl in several locations.

Also more fully shaded, is No. 8 which uses more color than Hickey's other works. It's a strange little scene—a bored trollop and a Nixon-look-alike hippie stand by a wall by some potted plants, while a girl strips in the next room. A brightly-colored hammer and screwdriver lie on a desk, and part of an enigmatic figure does something invisible at far right. If I could have it as a \$5 poster instead of a \$300 original, I'd buy it.

Other prices for Hickey's drawings run from \$100 up to "gimme an offer." The exhibit will run through March 19.

ROXY theatre
The Grapes of Wrath
 directed by John Ford
 5:30 - 7:35
 9:45

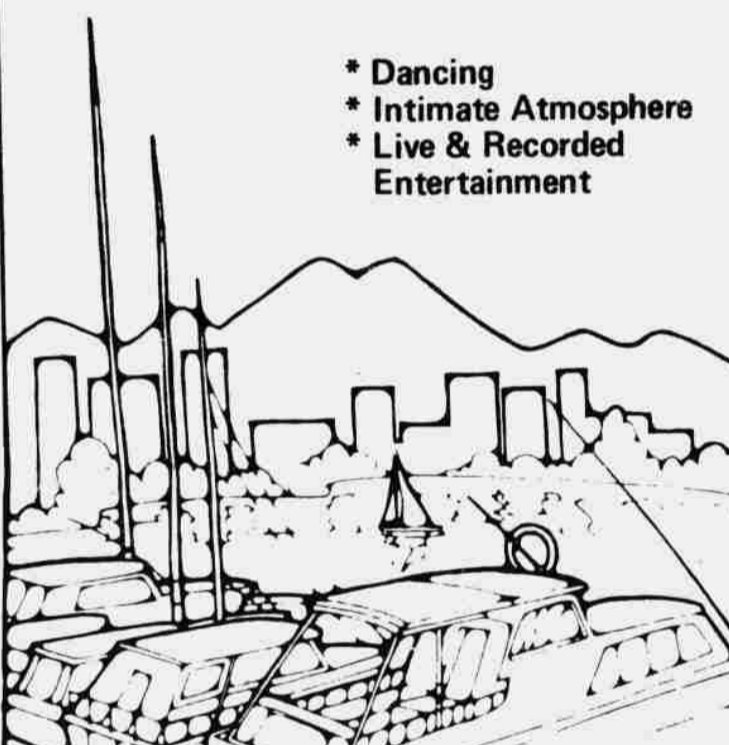
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 Bartok - Concerto for Orchestra
 MARCH 8 BPM
 Beethoven - Symphony No. 6
 Shostakovich - Symphony No. 5
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 Students undeclared as to college have been randomly assigned a college to vote in for the March 15th ASUN election based upon the last two digits of their student I.D. number.
 The assignments are:

Last 2 digits:	College
00-10	Agriculture
11-14	Architecture
15-42	Arts & Sciences
43-60	Business Adm.
61-71	Engineering
72-78	Home Economics
79-82	Nursing
83-99	Teachers

 Any undeclared student who does not wish to vote in the college he/she has been assigned must file a notarized form in the ASUN office, 334 Nebraska Union, by 4:00 p.m., March 13th.

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