

"Combine" by Steve Baldwin

Artists celebrate cartoons' appeal

By David Wood

Something in everyone loves a good cartoon. Something about rounding edges into hard lines, something about reducing shapes to lumps of color and rendering content as its own parody appeals to the child in us all. Celebrating the cuddly cuteness at the core of most things somehow dispels cynicism.

The carnival of art on display and for sale at the Haymarket Art Gallery attests to that fact. The four artists, whose work it is, know the at-

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traction of cartoons and aptly apply it to their assorted media.

Yet their art is also the product of careful craftsmanship and thereby appeals to the adult in us as well. The drawings of Janelle Lenser-Schultz, the soft sculptures of Danielle Bodine, the wooden vehicles of Steve Baldwin and the wire sculptures of Larry Sosso will be shown through Nov. 14.

Lenser-Schultz studied art at Midland College in Fremont and at UNL. Her bright pictures are sophisticated cartoons of cartoons. Wiggly black lines trap blobs of festive color without the looseness connoted by "drawings." She is as exact as an animator.

Bodine was born in Scottsbluff and graduated from the University of Washington in clothing design. Her cryptic needlework and conical, bugeyed birds have Native American and cave-art aspects to them and invite viewers to touch.

Baldwin, who graduated from UNL in industrial arts, makes models of antique cars and modern trucks out of fine woods. They are like sturdy toys made by a quality furniture-maker.

Sosso's wire sculptures and mobiles use wire, scrap metal and shellacked tissue to render sketches three-dimensional. He, and the others, prove that cartoons aren't for kids only.

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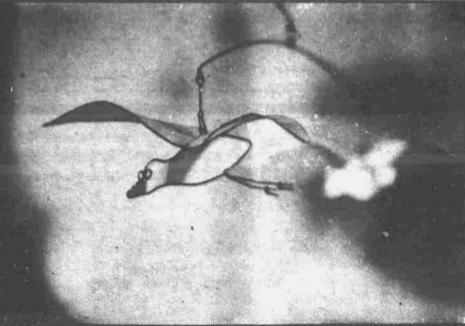


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