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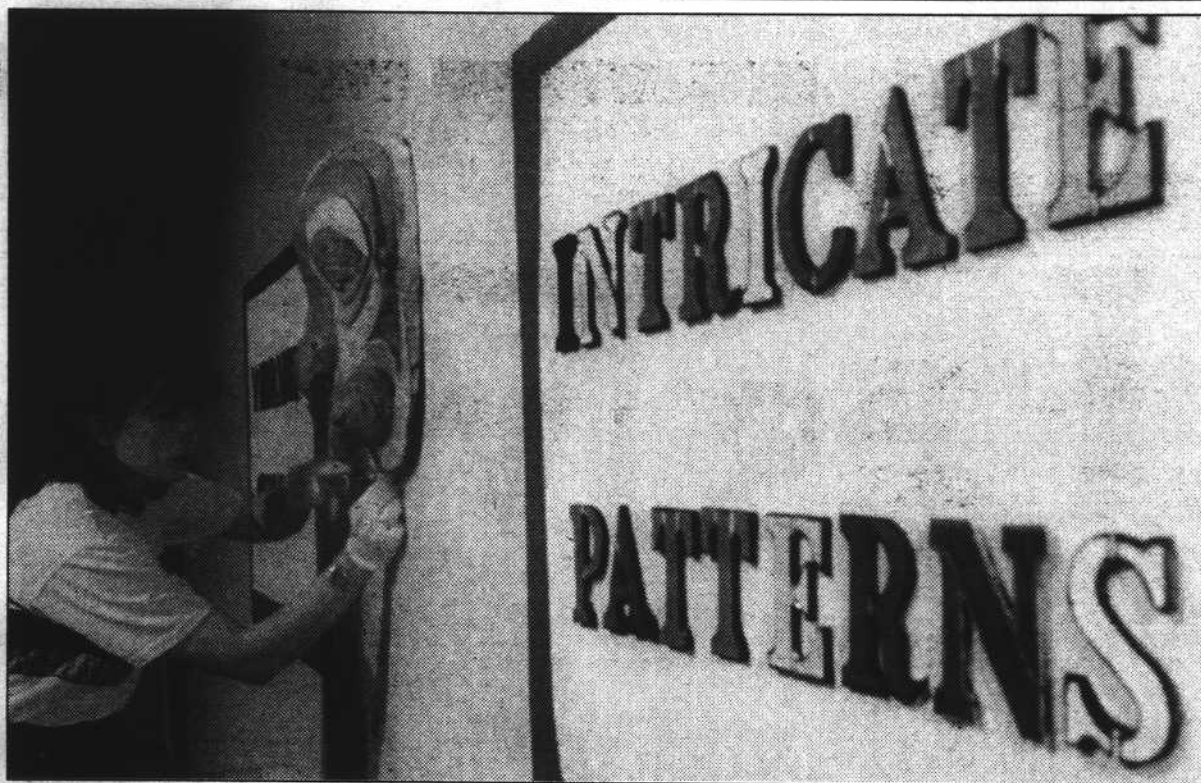
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Unl Center programming is supported by the Friends of Unl and gifts from the National Endowment for the Arts, Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Nebraska Arts Council.



SHERI HAGER, curatorial assistant for the Lentz Center for Asian Culture, adjusts an ancestral Blackwater River mask for the center's new exhibit. The mask, from Paupua, New Guinea, is one of the many gifts donated to the museum.

Lentz Center unveils exhibit

By SEAN MCCARTHY
Assignment Reporter

Detailed vases, exotic costumes and a variety of ceramics are part of a new exhibit at the Lentz Center, 329 Morrill Hall. The exhibit, "Vibrant Colors and Intricate Patterns: 1996-97 Gifts to the Lentz Center for Asian Culture," features items from China, Japan, Indonesia and New Guinea.

Barbara Chapman Banks, director and curator of the Lentz Center, said the idea for the exhibit came from a gourd-shaped vase donated by John and Marguerita Fosdick. John Fosdick graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1936.

"We realized that the vase fit the qualities of intricate colors and patterns," Banks said.

An exhibition of items with similar qualities is the result, she said.

The Fosdicks' gourd-shaped vase is garnished with various floral designs in emerald, burgundy and other brilliant colors.

Banks said the gourd's dried fruit is believed in Eastern mythology to help free spirits from the body.

"It's a symbol of mystery," she said.

"Vibrant Colors and Intricate Patterns" spans a lengthy time period. A Temmoka food jar, donated by the Fosdicks, dates back to about the 13th century.

Most items, however, were made

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between the 18th and 20th centuries, Banks said.

One of the more contemporary pieces includes two carved leather puppets in striking color and detail.

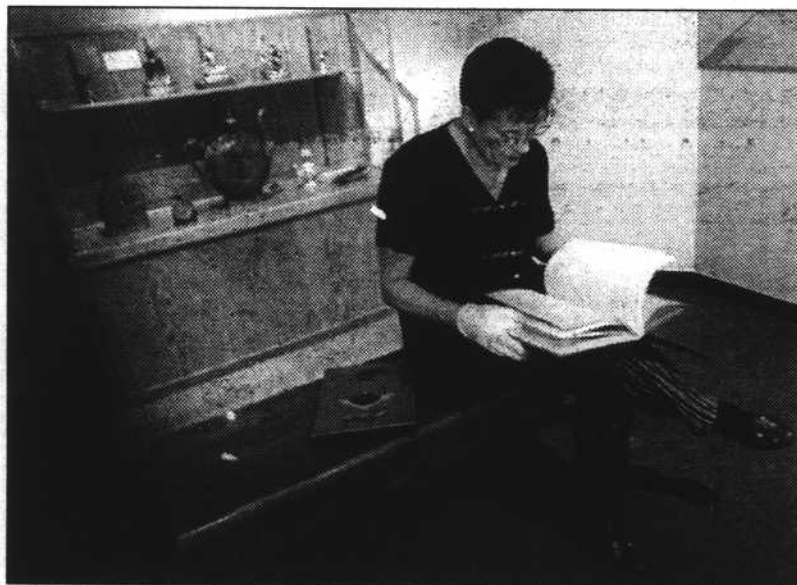
The puppets, donated by Carolyn and Ephraim Goodman, are the first items patrons see when they enter the exhibit.

Banks said the show's variety of

media reflects the many different items the center has received over the years. One particular striking donation is a text on marble stele. The upright slab includes gold etchings, and is part of the museum's permanent collection.

Museum visitors can catch "Vibrant Colors and Intricate Patterns" until Jan. 25, 1998.

The Lentz Center is open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.



BARBARA CHAPMAN BANKS, curator and director of the Lentz Center for Asian Culture, looks up patterns to help her identify one of the artifacts being used in the center's new show.

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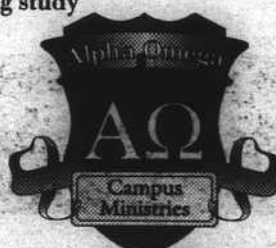
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