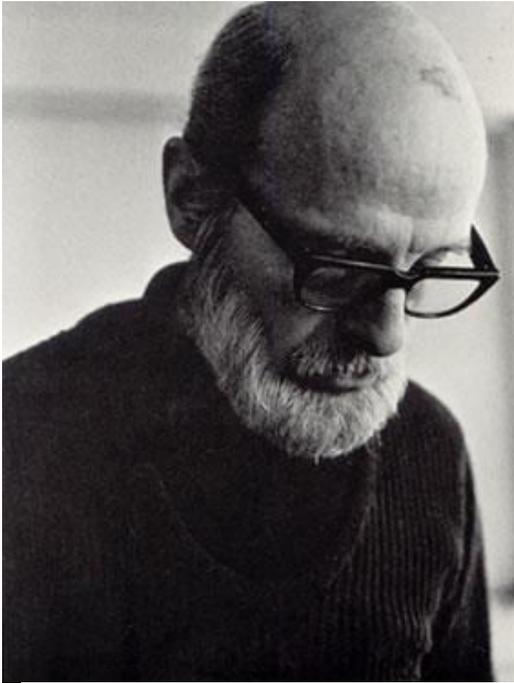


Venturing Out of This World

The Civilization of Llhuros | Akron Art Institute (Akron Art Museum)
Cleveland Plain Dealer | By Helen Borsick | September 17, 1972



Norman Daly

Who has heard of Llhuros?

In the catalog for his exhibition of “The Civilization of Llhuros” opening today at the Akron Art Institute, Norman Daly traces the earliest mention of its existence to a Tyrsenoian historian, Nim-Bu Tann the Elder, who wrote:

“Long ago the sailors who returned after being given up as lost, told of being befriended by the people on the shores of the Sea of Llhuris whose principle cities were dug deep within pumice minds. . .”

With this beginning, Daly embarks on an absorbing adventure in the historical documentation of an entire now-defunct civilization – which in fact never existed. So thoroughly has Daly reconstructed the evidences of this fiction Mid-East Llhuroscian culture, nonetheless, that the evidence to the contrary is all but convincing.

Besides creating dozens of artifacts (including implements of use, sculpture and paintings and architectural remnants) for the project, Daly provides Llhuroscian music, poetry and photomontages.

There are taped sound accompaniments including purported translations of ritual chants and an interview with noted Llhuroscian scholars.

Why Llhuros? Why the pseudo-anthropological framework? Daly, who is a professor of painting and sculpture at Cornell University, devised this cycle-of-civilization format as a means of giving context to his work, much of which has been in the found-sculpture area. It seems that the anthropological approach opens up a new avenue of communication with viewers who tend to ask of his kind of work, "What is it?" With Llhuros, that question is side-stepped.

In a way one suspects that Daly has been carried away with his Llhuros idea. There is a bit of over-doing the professorial antic, the college burlesque, the arcane humor.

On the other hand, if Daly is not actually an anthropologist, he has done his lessons. This very inventive man and versatile artist, has assembled a most fascinating environmental experience.

The deed was done with an assist from the Creative Program Service (CAPS). Akron's installation is the second in an extended U.S. tour of the exhibition, and Daly will be present for the opening from noon to 5 p.m. today, and also next weekend. The show will continue through October 23.



Miniature model of the
Temple at Holmeek