

Artist Creates 'Ancient' Present

Romisch-Germanisches Museum | Cologne, West Germany
Cornell Daily Sun | Allison Walzer | September 30, 1974

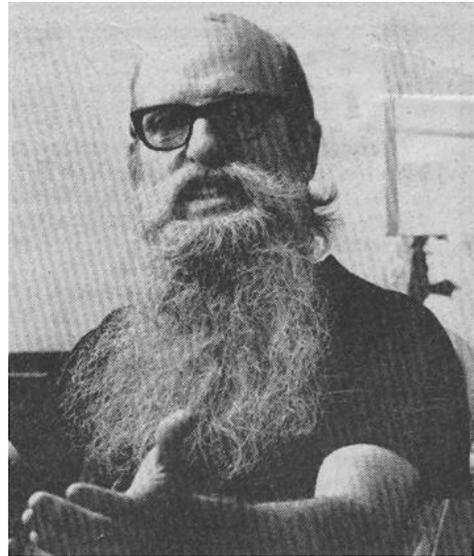
Exhibits of ancient civilizations don't often include rusty orange squeezers, detergent bottles and table legs, not to mention wall murals made of styrofoam.

But then the exhibit of Prof. Norman D. Daly art is not of the usual ancient civilization. Daly has created his "ancient" artifacts out of modern everyday objects. These artifacts, along with paintings and sculptures done by Daly portray the mythical "Civilization of Llhuros."

Daly's exhibit, which took five years to create, was not made to fool the public. Daly said one result of museums stressing "total acceptance," is people "suspend distrust." He added "given the circumstances (the realistic presentation by the museum), anyone is gullible."

Daly's idea for an "ancient-modern" civilization came with the realization that most viewers have an "inactive response" to art hanging in a museum.

Daly said he wanted to create an exhibit where the audience would be forced to concentrate and participate.



PROF. NORMAN D. DALY
Creator of Llhuros

Daly has the honor of being the first American to have a one-man show in Germany.

Daly explained that just as music listeners must cut out sound interferences which compete with the music, he built interferences into his exhibit to force the viewer to concentrate.

He cited examples of ancient bronze doors which have the word "HONDA" plainly embossed on them. The presence of modern day features on Daly's ancient artifacts is

an attempt to make the viewer question the credibility and, in so doing, become actively involved in the exhibits.

Daly also talked of a common problem of art viewers which is not to “question what is exhibited but simply to accept it as art since it’s in a museum.”

Daly mentioned his theory of “non-acceptance” of arts where he hoped the viewer would “use common responsiveness,” rather than the words of experts, to judge art.

He added the “...willingness with which people will accept and subscribe is maybe shocking...especially in museums.”



ANCIENT LOOK INTO THE PRESENT: Ancient artifacts include detergent bottles in Prof. Norman D. Daly’s “Civilization of Llhuros” exhibit which is currently in West Germany.

Daly said he wants the viewer to discover “I’m not talking of another society but of his own.” He elaborate about “ancient rites” described in the Llhuros exhibit which were intended to make the viewer reflect on similarities in his own society.

An example is the “stilt-walking ritual” in which Llhuroscians walk on stilts to atone for their sins. Daly explained that in real life to everyone “gets up on stilts,” metaphorically, as an example of self-sacrifice.

Through the use of examples from the Civilization of Llhuros, Daly said, he is attempting to point out cruelty and factors of modern society through examples of Llhuroscian society.

The exhibit, which was originally shown in the Andrew D. White museum two years ago, has since been on a tour of seven museums in the United States and is presently on exhibit in Cologne, West Germany.

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Through the use of examples from the civilization of Lihuros, Daly said, he is attempting to point out cruelty and factors of modern society through examples of Lihuroscian society.

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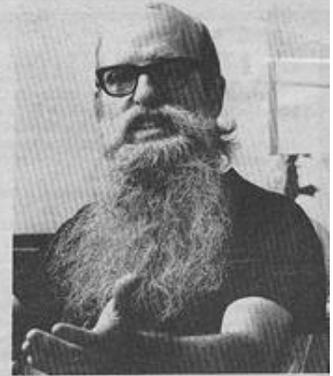


Photo by Jeff Erickson

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By ALLISON WALZER

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