

# *Civilization 'Artifacts' at University*

University Art Gallery | SUNY Albany | January 15-March 11, 1973

Knickerbocker News | January 9, 1973

## *"Llhuroscian Culture"*

The University Art Gallery of the State University at Albany soon will offer a remarkable exhibition experience, the "discovery" of a previously unknown civilization, "Llhuros". All of the fragmentary remnants of the "Llhuroscian culture" – its utilitarian and ritual objects, its scientific instruments, its architectural ruins – are, in fact the conception of a single contemporary artist, Norman Daly, professor of painting and sculpture at Cornell University.

**Besides creating** "artifacts", Daly has written Llhuroscian poetry and music and has established a considerable body of Llhuroscian scholarship. The exhibition will present Llhuros as a "real" ancient civilization for archaeological and aesthetic study. It will not expose the work as that of an individual artist.

The exhibition to be on view at the University Art Gallery from Monday, January 15, through March 11 will consist of more than 100 objects including sculpture, paintings and facsimiles from temples, photomontage, and the like. Larger dramatic pieces include temple doors, huge fragments of frescoes, and a full-scale spectacular temple wall, decorated in bas-relief. Taped sound will provide music, translations of ritual chants and an interview with noted Llhuroscian anthropologists.

The implications of the exhibition and Daly's concept go well beyond imitation and parody. The "artifacts" are described as quite beautiful, their qualities enduring independent of the Llhuroscian context. Many are ingeniously constructed out of found objects, carefully patinated to suggest an ancient origin.

The degree of disguise varies, offering constant challenge to the visitor's innocent assumptions of the reality of the ancient culture and of the reliability of his own senses. The ambiguity is heightened through the use of real stone and marble pieces appearing among those of heavily encrusted Styrofoam, plastic and similar materials.

**Likewise the chants** of human voices are interspersed with electronically generated sounds. Thus, the unsuspecting visitor first enter to received straightforward information, to see works of logically varied scale and purpose, to sense a consistency of style and ancient surfaces – all factor which permit him to make an initial leap of faith, to willingly suspend disbelief and accept the civilization as authentic.

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