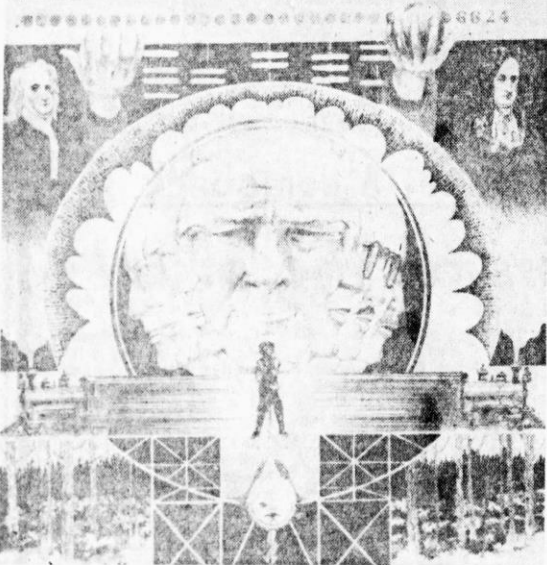


## 'Unordinary Realities': Fine art freak show

By JACKIE FARNAN



'Mr. E,' a sketch by Robert Sullins of Oswego.

"Unordinary Realities" is a gaudy three-dimensional cartoon... a fineart freak show... a surrealist's supermarket.

It's also an exhibit of sculpture, painting and photography by New York State artists. The show opened yesterday at the Xerox Square Exhibit Center and will run until Nov. 2.

"Nothing is real and this is just a little crazier than real," said Bruce Kravetz, who created the show for Xerox Corp. "I ripped off the idea from a book by Carlos Castaneda where he talks about things being real in an unordinary way. I read that months before I was asked to do the show, but the idea stuck."

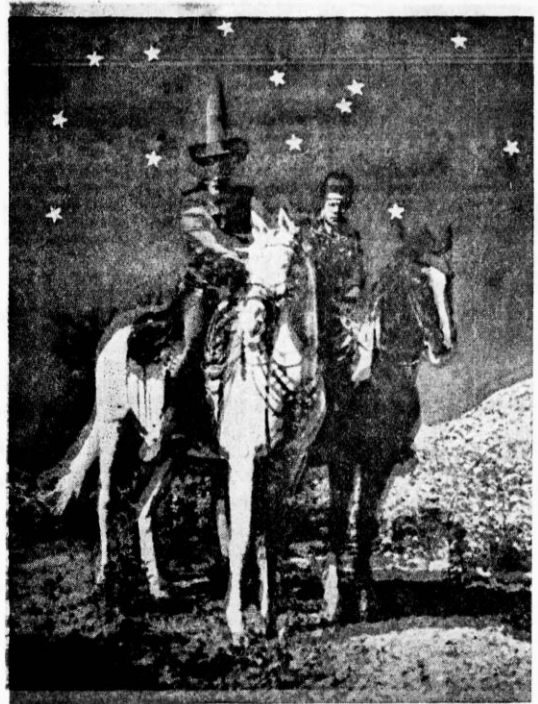
A LITTLE CRAZIER than real is right. The show contains such items as a 4-foot plastic beagle seated on an orange block. That wouldn't be unusual if the dog weren't wearing a waistcoat and hush puppies.

Also featured is a 15 by 20-foot pasteboard "Tea Party." Life-sized paper dolls of Henry VIII, Picasso, King Faisal, Martha Mitchell and other notables appear seated around a banquet table with crayon-drawn place settings. The artist, Mia Le Comte, also is placed in the setting as hostess. (Caution: this sculpture may be dangerous to your sense of reality.)

"We tried to bring to Rochester the type of things that have never been shown here before," Kravetz said. "The show has corpses of prehistoric animals; it even has an animal on wheels. It's halfway between surrealism and reality."

THE CONCEPT of "Unordinary Realities" was best defined by Rochester artist Tim Kelly whose painting, "For Old-Times Sake," appears in the show.

"It's using a representative image,"



Betty Hahn's 'Starry Night' in the Xerox show.

he said, "and distorting it so people can recognize elements of it but not (distorting it) to the point where it's a totally new image."

"The whole thing I get excited about is illusion, the suggestion of reality. I enjoy working with figures and distorting them."

One of the first "distorted images" to greet viewers when they arrive is a grotesque motorcyclist. Ushio Shinohara's plastic "Motorcycle Ma Ma no. 2" is a skull-faced driver on a mean machine.

ANOTHER MACABRE piece in the

show is a stained glass work by New York Times artist Zevi Blum and Ithaca glassmaker Jim Furman, the "Hygienist of the Wittenberg Dueling Team." The figure is a forbidding 7-foot thug in a cage helmet.

Blum said the hygienist was an innocent, stupid beast employed by underground dueling societies in Germany. It was his job to swab wounds of participants with a salt rag, thus ensuring a manly scar. "It was instant manhood through mutilation," Blum said.

One of the more fanciful works in the

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### XEROX SHOW

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show is a set of phony artifacts by Norman Daly. Daly has created an entire mythical civilization to support his pieces. Each item is accompanied by its own impressive archaeological "history." The punch line is that many of the earth-encrusted artifacts are plastic.

THE SHOW itself is a type of sculpture. "This whole show is my work of art," Kravetz said. "It's my medium.

For me, hanging it is putting one huge monstrous sculpture together."

Kravetz has featured many Rochester artists in the exhibit. Among them are Kathy Calderwood, John Supperty, Yvonne Cupolo, Susan Kemp, Barry Merritt, Tony Petracca, Jose E. Rivera and Ann Watson.

The exhibit is free and will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.