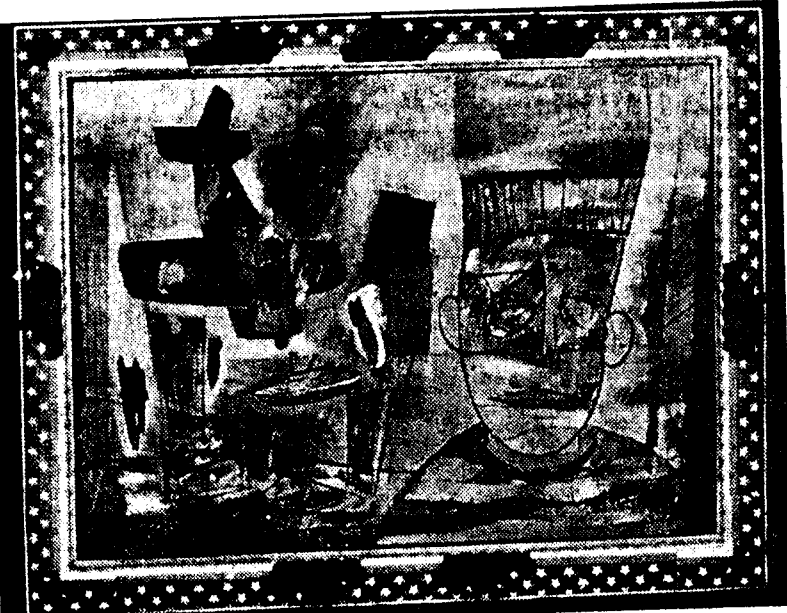


KY POST 1-8-1999



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Ernest Coleman

Artist Dana Tindall of Fort Wright prepares to set up his work for the 'Kentucky Made' exhibit at the Carnegie Center.



Lewis L. Cisle's "When I Was a Boy the World Was at War."

Russell Weedman's "The River" is at the Carnegie.

# Two shows explore human condition

## Eight Kentuckians take over Carnegie

BY OWEN FINDSEN  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Two exhibitions, eight artists, and not a weak spot in the lot.

In Delhi Township, at the College of Mount St. Joseph, painter and sculptor Lewis Cisle and textile artist Joyce Keron blend their work into a sensitive, insightful exhibition that celebrates life.

In Covington, at the Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, six artists who live in Kentucky show a depth of work that helps us know them well.

### Childhood memories

"I Am Born" is the title of the first painting by Mr. Cisle as you enter the gallery at Mount St. Joseph's Studio San Giuseppe. It announces that there is much to this exhibition that is autobiographical.

Although the two artists have never met (Mr. Cisle is a Cincinnati and Ms. Keron works in Seattle) their art, and the themes behind their art, blend so well you might think they shared a studio. The artists will attend a reception at the gallery from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. today.

Ms. Keron creates quilts that express memories. One series recalls a peat bog she remembers from childhood. Though the designs are non-objective, we can see dried leaves floating on the surface of a pond, reflections of the sky in the water.

The bog is a favorite memory from

### ART REVIEW

childhood and a subject of the artist's dreams. She has the magical ability to share these dreams and memories with the viewer.

She shows us favorite places without giving us pictures. "Life's pulsating energy surrounds us all in constantly rearranging patterns," the artist says. "I strive to catch a pattern and re-create it visually."

Mr. Cisle's paintings explore his childhood during the emotional uncertainty of World War II.

There is an affinity with the paintings of surrealist Paul Klee in Mr. Cisle's superbly painted canvases, with figures from myth and memory seeming to grow out of the painting process.

His sculpture, rustic folk-like totems, seem to come from nightmares, especially one of a child in an army tank, called "A Boy's Fantastic Coffin."

### 'Kentucky Made'

*Kentucky Made* at the Carnegie includes three sculptors, two painters and a ceramic artist.

Malcolm Mobutu Smith, an instructor in ceramics at Eastern Kentucky University, makes stoneware and earthenware pots and vases. Their surfaces twist and flow delicately with glazes that cover only portions of the surfaces. For the artist, pots "are symbols of history, a connection with the past."

His works, ranging from rustic to elegant, are exciting, innovative and original.

Jill Freking creates large sculptural works in clay, crumbling classic pillars and tree-like forms. The most interesting works are human figures that seem to be fossilized.

Dan DeZarn works mostly in steel, creating rusted boat-shaped objects that appear to have been unearthed. He incorporates skeletal elements, thorn-like structures, even real teeth, in works that are a bit on the morbid side.

Dana Tindall seems to find the everyday world a bit bizarre, but he would rather laugh at it than get depressed. His paintings are comical, three-dimensional, painted cutouts arranged within a frame. For Mr. Tindall, a pair of old running shoes is an appropriate subject for a still life, as is a pile of stuff in the corner of a garage.

He builds cabinets and furniture, including a love seat with the two halves divided by the wall of a building. He creates a series of works on the subject of ham, from the pig to the bacon in the frying pan, complete with lights and silly sound effects.

His work is so light and funny, you might not notice that it is also serious commentary on the world we live in.

### Tiptoeing around

The sound of dripping water is not melting ice at the Carnegie; it's part of the art of Joyce Ogden. A canvas bag filled with water hangs near the ceiling, dripping into a series of copper dishes hanging below it. It is one of three works in her gallery.

Another hangs a group of glass shelves from the ceiling, each filled with yellow translucent cups that are

full of water. The third work has the yellow cups lined up along a strip of aluminum, suspended from above.

The slightest bump by a visitor would spill water and upset the art. The feeling of having to walk carefully around it is what the piece is really about.

The cups are made of a plastic-covered fabric that suggests human skin. The artist sees water as more of a spiritual than material element. The work suggests the fragility of life.

For painter Russell Weedman, nature is a powerful force, a balance of incredible beauty and terrible danger, seething, boiling and absolutely grand.

Mr. Weedman paints landscapes in three parts; a vertical central panel flanked by horizontal side panels, in wall-filling size. Sometimes the central panel is in color and the side panels are monochrome; sometimes the opposite is true.

In all cases there are twisting forms, sometimes clouds, sometimes water, sometimes trees and roots, swirling shapes that remind one of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings of the Apocalypse.

If the other artists in these two shows are concerned with some aspects of the human condition, Mr. Weedman reminds us how small humanity is in the real scope of the universe.

Contemplative Images: Reconnecting the Creative Force, *Studio San Giuseppe, College of Mount St. Joseph, through Feb. 7. 244-4314. Kentucky Made, the Carnegie, Covington, through Jan. 29. 491-2030.*