

etCetera

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Photo by Ben Noey

An emerging artist at age 81

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Connell's art comes from culture

By Susan Bridges

At age 81, Clyde Connell is pleased to be considered an emerging artist.

A native of Louisiana, she may be emerging into the national art world, but her reputation among artists in the South and the Southwest has been established for decades.

Connell, whose works will be on display in both the Moudy Building gallery and the Student Center gallery through Sept. 26, creates her art with wood, paper and glue.

Her works have a distinctive natural quality, she said, probably because she has always been a child of nature.

The influence of her childhood on a plantation is evident in her work, she said. "People are influenced by their culture. That's

what your art comes out of."

A theme she wants to continue investigating is that "we have moved from living in nature to living in culture. This is an age of culture rather than an age of nature," she said.

As a small child, she said, she contrasted her white plantation culture with the culture of the Negro slaves. "I thought 'why do the whites not communicate (through music) like the Negroes?'"

The thought stuck with her. "Where I lived . . . has so much to do with my art now," she said. "Most of my works came directly out of the sounds of the plantation and the rhythm of the movements."

Through her sculptures, she wanted to make "something you can touch and be able to see" out

of sound, she said.

Sound is "movement that translates into form," she said. "Sound is music."

One work of art that has developed from her culture and from nature — and is said to be one of her favorites — is Dialogue Gate, a seven-foot ladder-like structure.

"I envisioned a structure where people could come together and talk. Dialogue and communication are most important," she said. "The world we live in needs talk so badly."

Ronald Watson, chairman of TCU's department of art and art history, said the construction suggests that "were we to climb its ladders, something very special would be ours. . . . Although it stands taller than most people, it actually can be taken as a miniature, a microcosm of humanity's drive for consciousness and for understanding."

But Connell said she doesn't think about what a piece will say while she's working on it. "It wouldn't work to say 'I want this to say this,'" she said.

When she creates a structure, she said, she usually sees a basic form in her mind, and the details evolve and change as she works. Ideas for other structures also come to mind while she is at work on a structure, she said.

Connell, a tiny woman, prefers working alone in her home/workshop on Lake Bistineau in Louisiana. She has only one assistant, someone who helps her with heavy lifting.

Connell's art career began at a very early age, she said with half a laugh. In first grade, her watercolor pictures were displayed on the walls of the one-room school she attended.

"Those first exhibitions I will never forget," she said. "I wish I had one (of the pictures). They must have been nothing."

But the early experience gave her a feel for working with the materials and for "noticing things" to be modeled in art, she said.

In 1918, Connell studied art at Breneau College in Gainseville, Ga., and started her artistic career as a painter.

In the 1950s, heavily influenced by the abstract expressionists, Connell quit painting and began constructing sculptures.

At that time in her life she made two trips to New York each year, where she saw the abstracts.

"When I first started seeing the abstracts, I would look at the Old Masters and come back to the

abstracts, and it seemed to me that abstract expression could hold its own with any period of art history," she said.

Before she began sculpting with wood, paper and glue — which she called an ancient art medium — Connell worked for a time with steel.

"I wanted to build tall structures of steel, but it was very expensive," she said, adding that she couldn't get enough materials to experiment, throw out and start over again. With wood and paper, she has plenty of materials to work with, she said.

Connell uses a variety of papers in her works. The color-tinted works have a "skin" of newspaper. Brown-tinted skins are made from brown paper bags.

She usually uses cedar in her constructions as it is moisture- and bug-repellent. For glue, she uses Elmer's glue and an acrylic coating.

"But for years no one would look at my work. Paper wasn't accepted at that time at all," she said.

In time, her sculptures were accepted by the persons who had long before accepted her paintings.

Time has begun to move rapidly in the art world, partially because of communication advances and partially because of the mobility of the artists, she said.

Art is no longer found only in New York, she said, which is part of the reason she is now gaining national recognition for her works.

Connell admitted it is unusual for an artist to emerge at her age, but, she said, "I'm the only older person I have anything to do with, other than my husband."

She said she'd like to know other older people, because what she sees of them on television is "terrible."

Society doesn't expect much of older people, she said, a phenomenon she said she finds is the opposite of what it should be. Sensing this lack of expectation, older people often become "non-people" — people who live up to people's non-expectations.

Connell developed this idea into an exhibit appropriately titled Non-People.

Connell has been featured in one-woman exhibits at the Tyler Museum of Art, D.W. Gallery of Dallas, the University of Houston and the Clock Tower Gallery in New York.



CLYDE CONNELL

Photo by Ben Noey

etCetera is a special weekly section of the TCU Daily Skiff, a student publication produced by the Texas Christian University journalism department. It is published on Mondays.
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Info desk has info plus

By Jennifer Skiff

The information desk has more to offer than information.

The desk, located directly across from the main cafeteria in the Student Center, is the place to go for everything from discount tickets to room reservations.

Dottie Phillips is Student Center director and assistant director of student activities. Phillips, her staff and student employees will answer—or try to answer—questions about TCU.

The information desk handles the reservation of Student Center rooms by student organizations, and lists the day's activities on a board in front of the cafeteria.

Also, clubs and organizations don't need to sit in front of the cafeteria selling tickets to functions, as the information desk will sell them. Speak to Carolyn Bumpas at the desk for more information on this service.

The information desk also manages the community board, located across from the desk, that tells who's selling what, who

needs a room or a roommate, and who wants a job or has a job to offer.

But signs must be approved by someone at the information desk before they are posted.

The information desk doesn't just have information about on-campus activities, though. It also offers discount tickets to United Artist, General Cinema and Plitt movies, along with discounts to Six Flags Over Texas, White Water and the Fort Worth Zoo.

A stop at the information desk before you head off campus may be worth the trip, as the movie discounts are worth almost half the box office price.

The desk is open for reservation of rooms and for purchase of discount tickets every day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The desk stays open for other services until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 2 a.m. Friday. The desk is also open from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.



INFORMATION—Students gather around the Student Center Information Desk to get discount tickets, reserve rooms in the Student Center and, of course, to get information.

events etc.

Monday 13

Inter Fraternity Council noon, Student Center Room 211
Brown Bag noon, Student Center Lounge
Panhellenic 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218
IFC 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222
Campus Crusade 8:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6

Tuesday 14

Management in Action 8 a.m., Student Center Room 205&6
Student Life Staff 8 a.m., Student Center Room 208
Brite Chapel 11 a.m., Robert Carr Chapel
United Way Committee 11:30 a.m., Student Center Room 214
School of Education Reception noon, Student Center Room 207&9
Management in Action Luncheon noon, Student Center Ballroom
Orientation Evaluation 2 p.m., Student Center Room 222
Parent's Weekend Committee 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 204
TCU Flying Club 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 203
House of Representatives 5 p.m., Student Center Room 222
Spirit Wranglers 6 p.m., Student Center Ballroom
Campus Chest 6 p.m., Student Center Room 202
Parent's Weekend Tryouts 7:30 p.m., Student Center Ballroom

Wednesday 15

Productivity Conference 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9
Productivity Luncheon noon, Student Center Ballroom
Film noon Student Center Room 205&6

Radio/TV/Film Evaluation noon, Student Center Room 208
LOTAS 2:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202

Study Skills 2:30 p.m., Student Center Room 203
Resume Seminar 3 p.m., 218
Programming Council 5 p.m., Student Center Room 211

Student Foundation 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222

Circle K 6 p.m., Student Center Room 202
ICHTHUS Wednesday night Bible study 7 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9
Parent's Weekend Tryouts 7:30 p.m., Student Center Ballroom
Film 8 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6
Canterbury 5:30 p.m., dinner and program, Trinity Episcopal Church
TCU Catholic Community dinner and discussion, 5:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation

Thursday 16

Productivity Conference Student Center Room 207&9
Town Student Social 11:30 a.m., Student Center Room 205&6
Productivity Luncheon noon, Student Center Ballroom
Bayard Friedman noon, Student Center Ballroom
Planning Session 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202
Resume Seminar 4 p.m., Student Center Room 218
Angel Flight 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 203
BSU Dinner 5:30 p.m., University Ministries
Running Club 7 p.m., Student Center Room 204
Lutheran Ministries 8 p.m., Student Center Room 204

Free Supper 5:45 p.m., Wesley Foundation
LOTAS 6:15 p.m., Student Center Room 202
Tau Beta Sigma 6:45 p.m., Student Center Room 203
Forum: Tom Sullivan 7 p.m., Student Center Ballroom

Friday 17

Student Life Staff 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9
Lunch noon, Wesley Foundation
DSF Fellowship 7 p.m., University Christian Church
Film 5, 8 p.m., midnight, Student Center Ballroom

Saturday 18

Film 5, 7:30, 10 p.m.

Sunday 19

Alpha Kappa Alpha 2:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6
Delta Sigma Theta 2:30 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9
Panhellenic 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218
IFC 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222
Alpha Phi Alpha 6 p.m., Student Center Room 202

Monday 20

Brown Bag noon, Student Center Lounge
Interview Tapes 1:15 p.m., Student Center Lounge
United Way Steering Committee 2 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6
Campus Crusade 8:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6

KTCU to air weekly series of concerts

The second annual Sue Smith Memorial Organ Concert will be tonight's feature at Concert Hour, TCU's current concert series.

Concerts in the Monday night series will include organ, piano and choir recitals by faculty members and visiting performers. A jazz concert, two performances by the Faculty Chamber Music Society and occasional performances by senior and graduate students will be included.

For those who can't attend, the weekly concerts will be aired live on KTCU-FM, 88.7.

The first concert was a voice recital by faculty member Gene Lorey, broadcast Aug. 30.

KTCU station manager Constantino Bernardez said he hopes for good listener response to the series because of the interest in the broadcast of the last Van Cliburn competition. He said music department chairman Emmet Smith suggested broadcasting the series.

All concerts are at 8 p.m. Most will be held in Ed Landreth Auditorium. Admission is free.

The series will resume live on the radio Monday nights when KTCU's transmitter, which broke last week, is repaired.

On Sept. 20, faculty member Donna Edwards will perform a piano recital. The Sept. 27 concert will feature Kathy Collins.

Theatre depicts Christian growth

By Diane Crane

"The Fall Review—Under Construction" is as much about the Cornerstone Theatre as it is about its main character—growing.

"My theatre is not a theatre of pat answers but of struggles," said Rich Peterson, writer-director-actor and sometimes vacuumer for the Cornerstone theatre, an enterprise he started five years ago. "I want to portray Christians as they really are—people who are growing."

Since December, when the theatre began showing its plays publicly, the group has staged "Song of the Mountains," a musical by Peterson, and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," adapted from "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis.

Peterson, a TCU student who is working for his master's degree in theatre, is working on an adaptation of "The Singer" by Calvin Miller. Peterson also wrote "Fall Review," which shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights through Sept. 25.

Working closely with his volunteer cast members, Peterson said, has helped him to grow.

"I've learned a lot about patience, a lot about letting other people have freedom to be themselves and use their own gifts. I've learned a lot about gratefulness and important things

like that that I never learned traveling (as a singer)," he said.

Peterson started his group because he wanted to see good Christian theatre. "I'd seen skits," he said, "but I didn't want to have just a five-minute witnessing thing. I want to get into a story and cry and laugh and really get involved with people's lives. The play has to be good theatre; it has to stand on its own."



RICH PETERSON

"This is a far cry from skits, what we're doing here. This is what I wanted to see. We're shining a light in the artistic world."

The light has attracted attention.

The local media favorably reviewed "The Lion," and Henry Hammack, chairman of the theatre arts department, has invited the Cornerstone theatre to perform selections of "Fall Review" at the Southwestern Theatre Conference at the Americana Hotel Oct. 26-29.

The invitation puts the theatre on the same level as other professional companies in the area.

Peterson earned his bachelor's degree from TCU in music. He and his wife, Penny, traveled as singers before they devoted themselves wholly to theatre.

Peterson's first full production, the musical "Jonah," was staged by Peterson's church, the Cornerstone. At that time, the Cornerstone was too small to support the theatre ministry, but the two have grown since then. The church now provides a rent-free facility for the theatre's stage, offices and headquarters, but the theatre operates independently otherwise.

"Christianity influences my world view," Peterson said. "My scripts assume the reality of a heavenly father. That's where we start."

"I'm not wrong in writing from my world view. I'm just as much a part of life as any other playwright."

Although Peterson performs in most of his productions, writing is his greatest pleasure in the staging process. "The joy for me comes when I write it (the play) and when I finish putting on the finishing touches. Everything in between is just plain hard work."

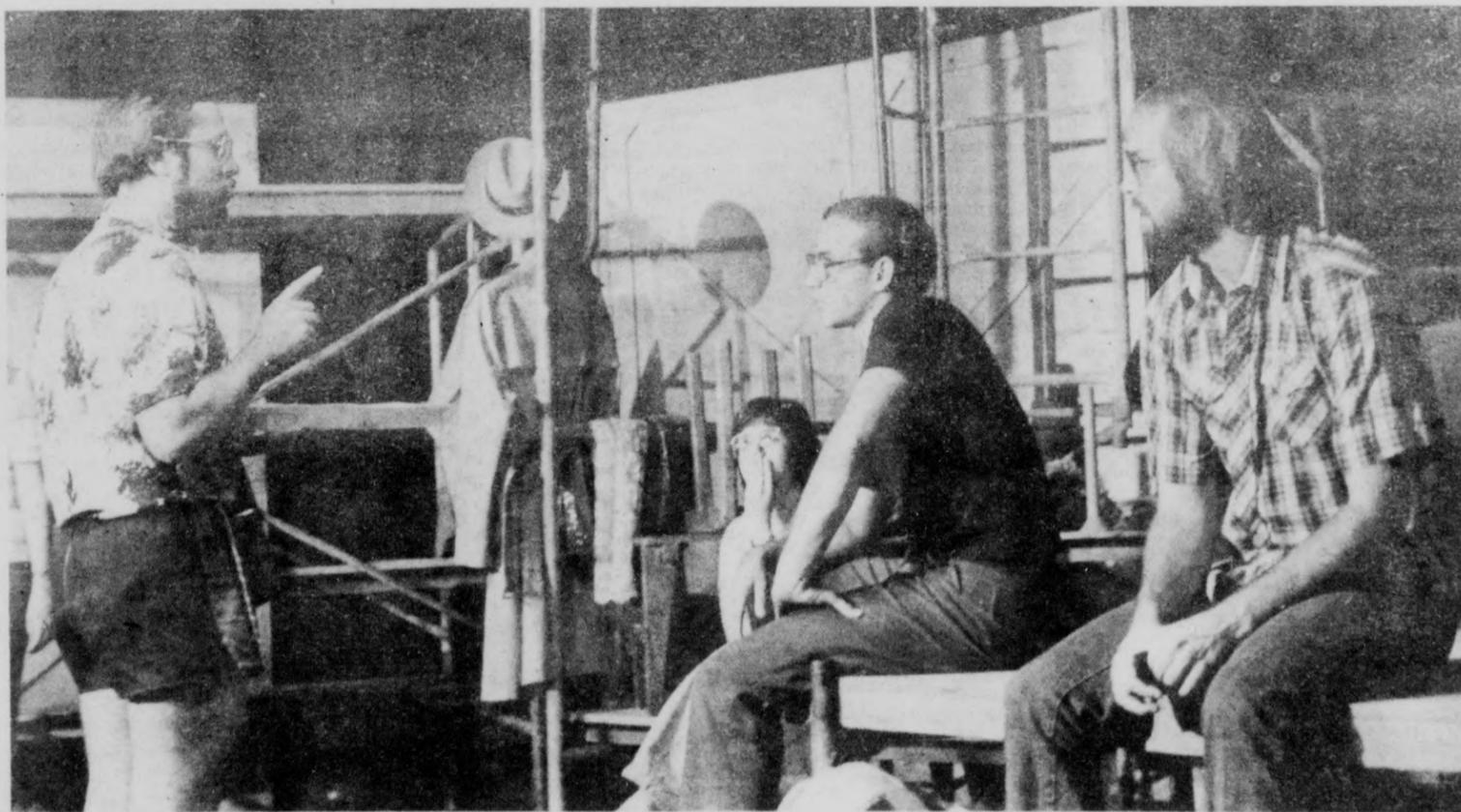
The work is not without reward, however. "People in the arts live under the most stressful situations," he said. "But the rewards are so great, it cancels out the stress."

"I'm working at it (the theatre). God has led me in the way, but I'm not going without any knowledge."

Despite the influence of Christianity, the theatre does not aim necessarily for a Christian audience. Although "Fall Review" is targeted toward a Christian audience because it is about Christians growing, Peterson said, the previous production, "The Lion," was not.

"For the last show, we aimed for a secular audience because it is a show that is the gospel. But it doesn't offend a non-believer," Peterson said. "A lot of non-believers loved the show and they left never even knowing they saw the gospel."

The Cornerstone Theatre is at 5008 James Ave., one mile south off I-20.



DIRECTING THE PLAYERS—Rich Peterson (left) gives instructions to cast members Margaret Rose, Jack Finkle and John Tepper during a rehearsal for the Cornerstone Theatre's production of "The Fall Review—Under Con-

struction." In addition to directing, Peterson wrote the script and performs in the play, which runs until Sept. 25.

Photo by Diane Crane