
Area Artists Featured in Card Exhibit

A holiday exhibit, "Season's Greetings from the Burchfield Center — Greeting Cards by Artists in the Permanent Collection," has opened in the Burchfield Center in Rockwell Hall at Buffalo State College.

Eight Western New York artists — Charles Burchfield, Julius J. Lankes, Harold Olmsted, James Kuo, Virginia Cuthbert, Philip Elliott, Bruce Shanks and Jack McLeod — will display original greeting cards.

Cards of Mr. Shanks and Mr. McLeod, past and present editorial cartoonists for The Buffalo Evening News, will offer a contrast to the other works, mainly done by painters.

Works have been loaned from the Lankas Collection in the Rare Book Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, from personal collections and from the Burchfield Center Permanent Collection.

The exhibition will be on display from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

11/27/80

At 2 Galleries

Exhibits Warm the Heart With Magic of Holidays

By **DIANE BERTOLO**

It's that time of year again. Whether you approach it with anxiety or joyous anticipation, there's no doubt that the holiday season is upon us.

To celebrate, the Burchfield Center has mounted a small exhibition of Christmas cards made by artists. It is obvious that artists, like everyone else, have a variety of responses toward Christmas.

Cards by Jack McLeod and Bruce Shanks celebrate the season of merrymaking with humorous illustration. The one-of-a-kind cards by Virginia Cutbert and Philip Elliott are a visual celebration of bright abstract splashes of color inscribed with holiday greetings.

For others, the Christmas season suggests a reverence of tradition. Woodcuts by Julius J. Lankes made in the '40s are charming provincial scenes of homes nestled in layers of snow. Harold Olmsted's line drawings also suggest an old-fashioned Christmas. James Kuo uses abstract forms to create a sense of harmony symbolic of the season.

THE MOST interesting selections in the exhibit are, not surprisingly, by Charles Burchfield, who seems to have viewed Christmas with warm enthusiasm one year and as a dreary experience the next. In some, interiors with Christmas trees glow with warm, inviting color. In others, the grey evening casts a dismal shadow on houses and landscape. Whatever the mood, they are all quite beautiful and peculiarly expressionistic.

Unfortunately, the size and scope of the exhibition is rather

limited leaving the viewer wishing for more. The result is an interesting show that is more of a tease than a statement on artists' Christmas cards.

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ACROSS THE street at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery is the traveling exhibition "Jouets Americains." It is a collection of American toys from 1925-1975 organized by the Musee des Arts Decoratifs, Paris and by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

While the exhibit isn't specifically a Christmas show, it certainly is opportune timing for the upcoming season. While viewing the exhibit, one can't help but overhear the tiny gallery visitors reciting their Christmas lists.

The exhibition is both delightful and educational. The toys reflect the social fabric and popular culture of American life. They chronicle the changing attitudes in toys from toys-as-entertainment to toys-as-education.

Perhaps more important, the show is fun.

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THERE ARE music boxes, painted iron cars and circus figures in every color and form. There are building blocks, puzzles and Tinker Toys.

Or perhaps you recall Shirley Temple dolls, Kewpie dolls and Raggedy Ann and Andy. There's more than a little nostalgia on view here for those old enough to remember when.

Because it's so difficult for the children to look but not touch, the gallery's education department has set up a toy nursery in which the young visitors can play with toys simi-


lar to those on exhibit.

Altogether, it's a delightful exhibition of interest to children and adults alike. It is certain to be a crowd pleaser, but one wonders why the Albright-Knox, whose reputation is built upon a commitment to contemporary art, would be hosting such an exhibit. It seems to be an exhibition more appropriate for an historical museum than an art gallery.

Whatever the reasons, the toys are here. Don't miss it.

Club to Meet

The Syracuse Club of Buffalo will meet for dinner at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 10 in Chef's Restaurant, 291 Seneca St.



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