

Rose Tobey

Rose Tobey's home, like her art, is filled with interesting objects: collectibles, antiques, original art, found objects, and memorabilia. All of these reflect the personality and life of Rose, as she likes to keep reminders of the past. Many of these reminders, in one form or another, may reappear in Rose's future, because she incorporates them in her work. In fact, she calls some of her art "Bag Lady Art", for the "junk I started collecting twenty years ago" ends up in her art. This makes her art highly personal, as the collected pieces are actually bits of her life and that of her family. Even the varied designs and patterns which she uses to decorate her furniture and assemblages are from her past. As a young child she would sleep on a shelf while her father used an embroidery machine to apply designs to clothing. She stated that color and design were always topics of discussion in her family.

Rose feels that organizations like TVAA and WCA have helped her in receiving recognition and she states that "the networking in both of these has given me the confidence to project my work to the public. And I think this has made a world of difference in how I feel about myself and even in how people feel about me. If you have a little bit of success, it begets more success." She feels all artists need the support and networking of these kinds of organizations. She believes that is why people will join DARE (see Dec. issue of BrushStrokes). She relates, "We do need each other to network, to learn from one another; and most of what I've learned, I've learned from fellow artists." She also feels that she would not have had the amount of success which she enjoys now,



if she had not had the exposure and awards that she has earned through her association with these organizations. She states that she also "owes so much to Patricia Meadows and Vicki Meek of D-Art. Patricia is the one who first said I was an artist-I just thought I was a housewife who painted. All those things change your view about yourself, all those things make a difference."

Compelled to go on with her art because of what she defines as a "poetic soul," Rose expresses her self, her feelings, and the varied textures and colors of her changing life through the poetry of her work. This work sometimes inspires the viewer to try out her ideas in their own studios, but a combination of painstaking craftsmanship, years of experience, and a personal kind of creative force make this art impossible to duplicate.

Rose works in diverse media: sculptures of assembled pieces; wall art made of assembled objects, photos, and memorabilia; photographic montages which resemble mosaics, interesting for their patterns and design but notable on a different level because of the combined images; non-objective paper pieces, rich in color and texture; wearable art; and furniture which becomes art by the hand of the artist. Whatever the medium, Rose incorporates sometimes seemingly unrelated bits of what she has seen fit to collect

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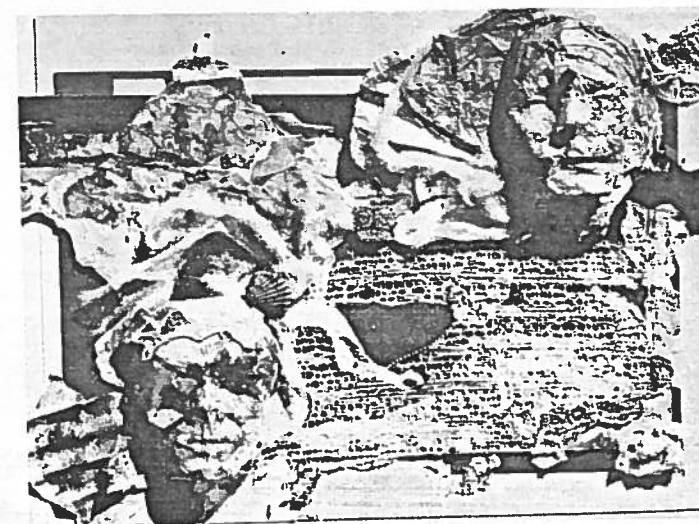
into cohesive units. When asked what medium she likes best, she replied, "Anything I can paint on." She feels that most of her art personifies her self and that "the paintings are more poetic; they're just feelings that come out."

Because Rose works on several pieces at once, her entire home becomes her studio. Though one room is the designated studio, her kitchen may be the birthplace of her latest painting (an ethereal painting with an earthly device such as an egg beater), and the breakfast room lodges brightly painted wooden spoons and a pedestal soon to be assembled into a 3-D piece. Her garage is the arena for constructing pieces and the patio shows signs of spray painting. The living room and den house a gallery of works created by Rose and other artists whose works she has collected.

Rose feels that her art can be called "Woman's Art" without shame. She feels that "a woman has something to say that is unique to her condition and her art is full of that. Just because a man has his 'thing' doesn't mean it's any better than a woman's 'thing'; she represents about fifty percent of the human population. All

the things that she feels as she matures are represented in her art". Rose feels that if a woman is able to communicate these feelings, then she is successful and should be judged without the prejudice which keeps critics and public from seeing the inner meaning. She feels that woman's art is judged with prejudice and that this is the same prejudice that Georgia O'Keeffe faced many years ago. "Her art was not seen as the vision of someone with real, deeply felt desires, but as the vision of a womanhood, or that depersonalized Woman who stands for nature" (See Art in America, Jan. 1990).

Rose Tobey is a long time member of TVAA, a past president, who presently serves on the Board of Directors and is a Signature Member. Although her shows and awards are too numerous to list, her work can presently be seen at the Allen Street Gallery in a show called "Altered and Alternative Photographic Images", in the Texas Sculpture Association Membership Show at Trammell Crow Center, at Adelle M Gallery, at Boyd-Levinson Showroom, and at Decor in Preston/Campbell Center.



Xanaduh, by Rose Tobey