600 ART AND FINE CRAFT EVENTS, MUSEUM EXHIBITS AND GALLERY SHOWS

AMERICANSTYLE™

Deciphering Art with Words

Collecting Handcrafted Chairs

One on One With Beatrice Wood

An Arts Tour of San Francisco

6

$7.00

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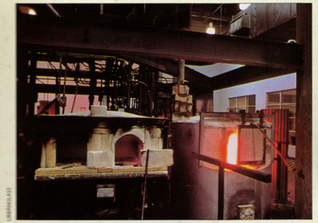
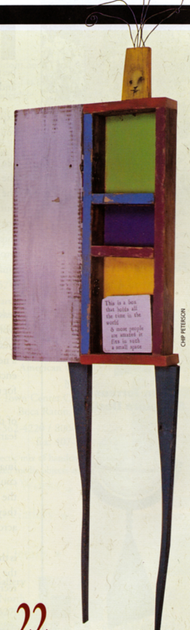


37 *The "hot shop" at UrbanGlass in Brooklyn, N.Y., is the place to observe skilled glassblowers at work. Walk right in off the street to watch or take a workshop to learn the art yourself.*

The fanciful chair 42 *(right and on the cover) by Karoh is just a sample of the incredible range of fun, finely handcrafted furniture art that is available to collectors.*



22 *Ever since humankind starting writing, words have appeared in art. Why? To jump-start our thinking, like Brian Andreas does in his "Time in a Box."*

the hot seat

By Lynda McDaniel

IN THE TRADITION OF JAZZ, baseball and hamburgers, America has launched another international movement. Some call it art furniture, others functional sculpture. Judith Lippman, director of the Meredith Gallery in Baltimore, Md., calls it the epitome of American ingenuity. "The work is so inventive. It encompasses the complete spectrum—men and women, old and young, traditional and contemporary—and it's not specific to one part of the country."

Although she stresses that noted artists create all of the functional forms within the movement (chairs, tables, beds, sofas, cabinets), chairs specifically have garnered the attention of galleries and museums. "People respond well to chairs," Lippman adds. "After all, everyone has a favorite chair at home." As the popularity of chairs grows, collectors will find themselves sitting pretty, literally and figuratively, in and with their investment.

No mere posterior repositories, these chairs are crafted from inspired designs in every medium imaginable—glass and cement, wood and steel, clay and cloth. They range from traditional and functional to wild and crazy. Some chairs are even made using preindustrial techniques, such as water-powered wheels, foot-powered lathes and lots of elbow grease.

Because chairs come in such a wide range of styles, Lippman, who teaches collecting, advises collectors to begin with an overview of the medium and decide what suits your tastes—traditional, country, fanciful, flamboyant. The next step is to learn everything possible about what is currently offered, venturing beyond your own geographic area. When visiting a gallery, she recommends starting with a quick overview, logging first impressions in the back of your mind while touring again for a more careful review.

Johanna Hansen uses low-fire clay, items from the hardware store, cloth ribbon and bright acrylic paint to tell stories of her personal experiences in her clay sculptures.

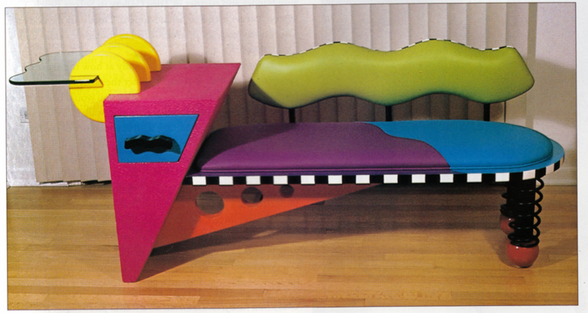
A writer of articles and essays on the arts and natural living, Lynda McDaniel's work has appeared in such magazines as Country Inns *and* Blue Ridge Country. *She is based in Asheville, N.C.*

Sit down and get comfortable in handcrafted art chairs

seat

Where do you roam? "Have Chair Will Travel" by James Bickmann incorporates vintage cloth and scenic postcards. Take it along—it folds up into a suitcase.

Alice-in-Wonderland small ladderbacks by Kurt Nielsen lend a fantasy touch for miniature dolls in their dream houses.



Mitch Levin's work is intended to excite the senses. His whimsical approach to design produces furniture that is both bold and functional.