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Montana craftsmen exhibit at Smithsonian

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MONTANA CRAFTSMEN
EXHIBIT AT SMITHSONIAN

Work by 31 Montana craftsmen will be exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., Feb. 3 through March 1.

Dean Charles W. Bolen of the University of Montana School of Fine Arts said the school and the Montana Arts Council, of which he is chairman, are cooperating in the presentation of the exhibit-sale in the Museum Shop of the Smithsonian Arts and Industries building.

The representative collection of modern and traditional works by Montanans includes ceramics, jewelry, weaving, macrame, carvings and soft sculpture.

The exhibit is the first of a series planned by the Smithsonian to highlight the contemporary craftsmen of each of the 50 states, according to Ray Dockstader, Washington, D. C., coordinator of the project. He commented that Montana is especially well known in the area of ceramic arts.

He said the exhibit features the Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, which for many years has been a workshop for many of the nation's most creative potters -- Pete Voulkos, Berkeley, Calif.; Rudy Autio, Missoula; James McKinnell, Edinburgh, Scotland; Ken Ferguson, Kansas City, Mo., and Dave Shaner, Helena, current resident potter .

Work by these ceramic artists will be on display at the Smithsonian along with that of graduate students, housewives, teachers, businessmen and full-time craftsmen.

(more)

Other artists represented are Margaret M. Ames, Terry McIlrath and Brian Persha, all of Billings; Frances Afanasiev, Leonidas Paulos, Frances Senska, Thomas C. Siefke and Everett Snowden, all of Bozeman; John Bear Medicine, Browning; Mrs. David Jensen, Helena; Ray Steele, Dean Borchers, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Danforth and Gary Sullivan, all of Great Falls.

Maxine Blackmer, Terese Blanding, Nancy Erickson, Richard Mammel, Reed Schoonover, Jane Shull and Leonard Stach, all of Missoula; Helen Bitar and John Murphy, both of Kenosha, Wis.; Fred Sieger, Seattle, Wash., and B. A. (Bunny) McBride, Alfred Station, N. Y.

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