

At Todd Mack in March:

COME HANDLE THE ART "A WAY WITH WORDS"

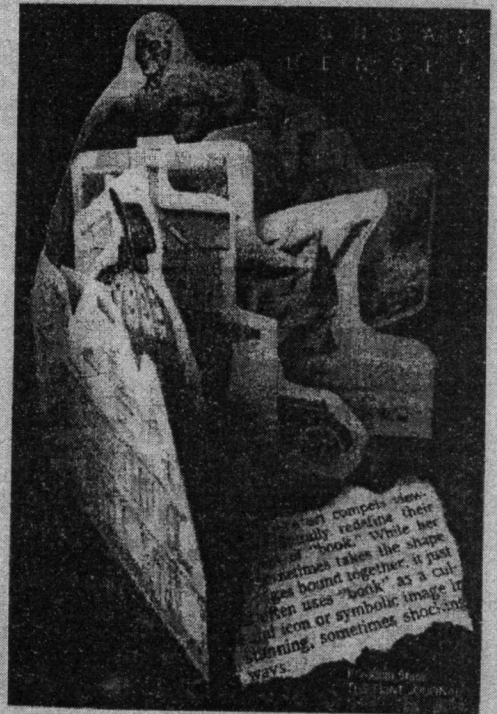
artists books and sculptures by
Susan Hensel

Come handle the art in March. East Lansing artist Susan Hensel will be bringing her increasingly well known books and sculptures to Todd Mack's Gallery for the month of March. Her work is represented in collections and exhibitions worldwide. Her work has been published in "Biblio Magazine" and "The Studio" and as examples in several books available on the craft of handmade books. Show reviews have been strong.

According to Susan, an artist's book is a multi-media, interactive, time-based, three dimensional piece of art in which form (the shape of the book and it's movement) and content (what's on the paper) are fully inter-related. An artist's book is not just an illustrated story. In an artist's book neither the story nor the illustration stands alone. Each aspect of the book is essential for the meaning to happen. An artists book may or may not have words, usually will have some sort of imagery and really NEEDS to be handled, manipulated and "read" in order to come alive.

"Museums are wonderful," declares Susan, "they do help preserve art for the future, BUT, they also turn us all into spectators and audience. They deaden the participatory experience that has always been an intended aim of art. Art seemed to lose it's power to move people when people became audience rather than participant. I challenge them to touch, feel, smell, read, move, to take a risk and think about the content of art."

In addition to the artist's books for which she is well known, Susan will be premiering two new sculptures: *The Gift* and *From the Soul*, two rather large altar pieces that challenge the viewer to re-think some common traditions. Once again, people are encouraged to interact with the pieces, manip-



ulating the pages, opening the doors, stripping down expectations to get to the core of meaning.

So, come handle the art in March. Meet the artist, Sunday, March 7, 1-4pm. *A WAY WITH WORDS* will be on display March 7-27, 1999.



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