

Carlson & Publications 26



Norlin Library houses visual art along with its literary collection

At the libraries? Norlin Library on the University of Colorado at Boulder campus provides a multitude of art exhibits and literary readings. Rare treats await the visitor to the Special Collections Department, where display cases in both the east and west lobbies feature rotating exhibits throughout the year. Paintings and sculptures also can be found throughout the library building. In addition, the Libraries Ex Libris group offers literary readings throughout the academic year.

Three unique literary sculptures by Michigan artist Susan Hensel are new additions to the growing collection of artists' books in the Special Collections Department. Her artworks, "Sappho," "Anne," and "Emily," celebrate the creativity of three poets. In her most simple sculpture, a paperback edition of Sappho's poetry (the artist's own copy), from her high school years) emerges from a broken Doric column. The largest piece represents Anne Sexton.

The evocative sculpture of Emily Dickinson shows her dark-eyed gaze through a lace-curtained window, behind a half-closed door. Packets of her poems are bound with string, much like those her family discovered after her death. Phrases from her poems are handwritten on the door.

These works complement items that are already in the department's collection and enhance presentations to students in literature, writing, and fine arts classes. Hensel's powerful sculptures will be displayed next to original letters written by Anne Sexton and Emily Dickinson, and fine press editions of Sappho's poems. It is the Special Collections Department's hope that the sculptures will help to inspire discussion of issues such as cultural constraint, the impulse to communicate, and the healing power of art.

This October, a special exhibit of cloth doll sculptures in the lobby of the library features the award-winning creations of Barbara Panto. The exhibit also includes explanations of the doll-making process and pattern-making.

Asked to describe her creative process, the artist said, "These little people move from my inner world through the process of drawing patterns, making muslin drapes, and selecting materials to become cloth dolls with lives of their own. During this birth process, the cloth dolls tell me their stories."

Norlin Library hosts a variety of art throughout the building. Near the first floor east circulation department, the 1985 mural *Camando a la Tierra* by Aurelio Diaz Alzaro Telapankali, reworks a rich blend of contemporary and pre-Columbian images, woven into a story that remains poignant and relevant.

Mounted on the first and second floor landings of the south-east stairwell are two panels depicting images related to the parent word and the electronic word.

The bronze bust *Running Brave* is located outside the second floor periodicals room, and the third floor landing features an enormous comic canvas by local artist Bernard Prako.

A collection of juvenile literature posters, is featured on the third floor. Outside of the juvenile literature collection is the 1977 mixed media lithograph of Lincoln in Dali-Vision. The cubist presidential bust will appear to transform into a female form (the wife of Dali) gazing through a window out on to the Mediterranean.

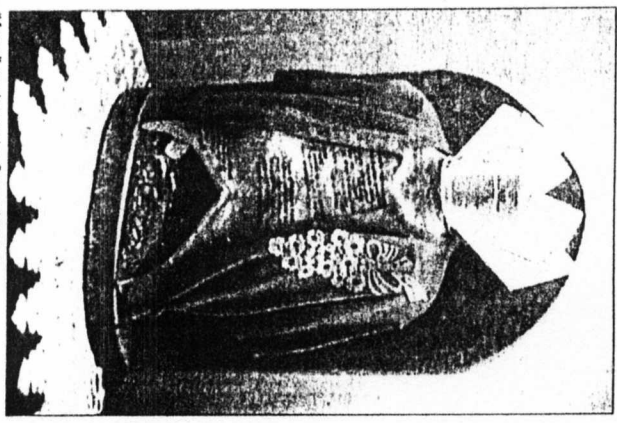
Opposite the Special Collections Department, the Norlin Northwest Gallery showcases student, staff, faculty, local, and international artists.

This fall the Libraries literary series will present Connie Willis, author of seven novels, including "Doomsday Book" and "Passage." One of the most popular and critically acclaimed science fiction authors today, Willis is the recipient of six Nebula Awards, five Hugo Awards and the John W. Campbell Award.

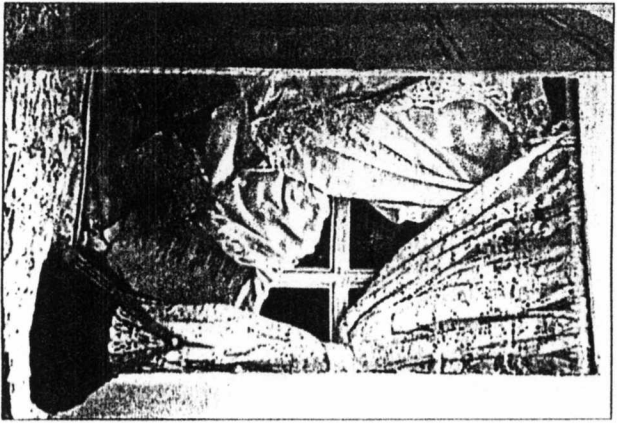
Willis is scheduled to read Nov. 10 at the Center for British Studies, on the fifth floor of Norlin Library.

The Norlin lobby will feature an exhibit on science fiction November through December.

By Deborah Fink, CU Libraries



"Anne" sculpture by Susan Hensel



Hensel's "Emily" sculpture