

## DWAYNE LOWDER

Dwayne Lowder is a native of North Carolina. He is considered a native artist as he spent twenty years in Kalamazoo. He was born in Albemarle, North Carolina in 1936. He received his B.A. and Master of Arts degrees from the University of North Carolina. The first years in Kalamazoo started in 1963 at the Kalamazoo Art Center, as the first full time exhibit designer. He was also an instructor in photography and sculpture. In 1966 he went to Western Michigan University, as an Associate Professor of Art.

Mr. Lowder won many prizes during 1964-66 in sculpture, acrylic painting and stained glass. In 1979, the Battle Creek Art Center hosted the first exhibit in the State of Michigan that dealt only with the stained glass medium. It was in 1978 that his stained glass window entry (for the Kalamazoo Art Center Gallery) was selected. His unnamed sculpture in the internal courtyard was commissioned by Dorothy Dalton in 1969.

Lowder's work is lucid and attractive and satisfies the eye. His incredible power to satisfy the eye shows all elements in harmony with other elements. This is shown in all his sculptures, stained glass, and paintings. His recent work represents a vision of the world as temporarily impotent, a dreamed paradise in which key images are playfully repeated within a framework of visual order. Many of his figures come from his dreams. His use of vivid colors, simple but splended forms of rich material are all evident. His work does not fool the eye but fools the mind. As a designer, he is a skilled and admirable technician, as an artist he is that and less because he fails to be much more. I feel this is because he is his own worst critic.

His works include serigraphs, circular paintings, sculpture. His mediums included aluminum, stained glass, laminated wood and metal, bronze and acrylic on canvas.

His last showing in Kalamazoo, a 1982 exhibit called "in a Southern Tradition", was another paradox. For this 1982 exhibit, a large stained glass window was permanently installed at the Art Center. The window contains many symbols; ducks (which are used in many of his works) came from a dream. The role of the dog is just the opposite from the impassive role of the duck and is an active image. In this piece, he also uses: houses, snakes, ginko leaves, sun and moon, polywogs, a shooting gallery, weinies, worms, an arch and a door. Many of these objects are used in his other works. His use of vivid color: reds, blues, yellow and green, create a visual color feast.

After the 1982 showing, Mr. Lowder returned to his beloved North Carolina to raise sheep and make art. His farm home is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, near Chapel Hill. After his return to North Carolina, a large barn was constructed for use as a creative work place. As I stated, Mr. Lowder is his own worst critic as evidenced in 1981-82, when he threw out 50% of his works, stating ". . .There was no need to proliferate bad art."

Many of his circular paintings were called "Systems 23" . . .Systems 3" . . .etc. These were composed of curvy lines of different colors and at one side, a strip of straight lines.