



Brott and students' art

Joyous Art

Brott Brings World Of Bronze To Hyde

By BOB FORKEY
District Reporter

BATH — Hyde School has an artist in its cellar.

He works with a torch and pliers, metal shears and handsaws, hammers, mallets and other tools.

And he creates bronze figures which one magazine has called "joyous works of art." He does not argue with that description.

He is Gordon Brott of Camden, and he is Hyde School's artist in residence until Feb. 26.

Brott said he does not conduct any formal classes at Hyde. Student schedules are too full for that.

BUT HE IS IN his makeshift studio, a basement storeroom, evenings when students meet with him to learn about the oxygen-acetylene process he uses for his creations. And to make some of their own.

Brott does his own work during the day, but is available all the time to help the students and discuss their work.

"As they (students) discover me, it's been enthusiastic," Brott said Friday as he finished his third week at Hyde.

"The kids are great here," he said, adding he is able to talk on a deep level with them.

And he is pleased with the way the students have adapted to the actual work of the art.

"Working with temperatures of 1,500 degrees and more can be intimidating for someone who hasn't done it before," he said.

Figures built by the students fill a table in the cellar studio. But Brott indicated he is disappointed with the amount of work that has

An example
of Brott's
bronze
figure creations.



been turned out so far. He said there are more figures ready to be completed.

AS FOR HIMSELF, he said he found the amount of work he finished during his first week at Hyde incredible. He said he never thought he would do so much so fast.

Brott had just finished mounting his bronze version of Winslow Homer's "American Gothic," a work that took about 20 hours to complete.

In effect, Brott is at Hyde to help his son get through school. He said he wanted his son to attend Hyde, but did not have enough money. A scholarship was offered, and as part of the scholarship he gave a month of his time to the school.

Brott brought his own equipment down from his Camden studio, including his torch and the oxygen and acetylene tanks, and a huge anvil. "It took three trips to get it here," he said, and it will take more to get back.

A former teacher and teaching principal, Brott maintains a full-time studio and gallery in Camden.

"JOYOUS WORKS," the artist said, "I choose not to celebrate the unhappy, the blackness. God knows I've earned the right to make that decision."

He said his work is people-oriented, relationship-oriented and nature-oriented. And he said, "The hardest part of this is getting an idea. The rest is mechanical."

Simplified, the idea is translated into a sketch on a fire brick. The image is carved into the brick and an armature, or pieces of wire, are placed inside. Low-fusing bronze is melted and poured into the carved opening in the brick and with more work the figure is removed and formed into the shape of the original idea. Brott mounts his creations on marble or slate.

Brott said he has about two shows a year away from his gallery.

His work and the work of his students will be shown during a parents night the last day of his stay at Hyde. Bath residents saw one of his works, a torch carried in the Winter Weekend Special Olympics. The school asked Brott to fashion the torch for the event.

Brott said, "It's just been a good experience here so far. I hope I will be asked back again next year."

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

Gordon Brott of Camden is artist in residence at the Hyde School. He is teaching students how to create bronze figures.
(Photo)

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