

# Gallery Showing Kaish Work

By VIRGINIA JEFFREY SMITH

A husband-wife team, formerly of Rochester now living in New York City, returned to the city last week for opening of an exhibition of their work at Memorial Art Gallery.

They are Mort and Louise Kaish, who until 1951 were employed in Sibley's advertising department. At that time, and after winning the Juror's Award for their "two man show," they decided to leave Rochester and study in Europe. Days before sailing, Louise was awarded a Tiffany Foundation Fellowship and thus armed they left for Italy.

Mort is the painter and Louise the sculptor.

One might almost think the reverse of this true for there is assuredly nothing feminine in her sculpture and there is a certain poetic tenderness in his papers.

They are both graduates of Syracuse University's art school.

Her work, especially that in stone shows markedly the influence of Mestrovic with whom she studied. She uses a great variety of material—granite, marble, lead, steel and copper, the latter materials being used in the welded forms which are the latest development in three-dimensional expression.

**Whether or not one likes these rather strange looking objects, they have the interest of originality. They are not easy to understand, but they have cohesion of expression.**

Some start from representation, such as those based on desert flowers, but they are so stylized and abstracted that they bear little resemblance to the natural form.

This voyage from the objective to the subjective which is characteristic of modernistic art is, to this reviewer, easier to take in sculpture than in painting. The welding torch is a far cry from the hammer and chisel but her expression is always keyed to the idiom of her material.

His paintings, also in the modern manner, show such diverse influences as Ryder and Marin who were as far apart as the antipodes. His paintings have color quality and aim to show the spirit or mood of his subject matter rather than mere physical features. They both have zest, force and originality.

## Calendar of Events, Exhibits

**MEMORIAL ART GALLERY**—Wurtzburger collection of African sculptures; sculptures and paintings by Luise and Mort Kaish; paintings by the late Marsden Hartley; trivets in the Collectors' Corner; class work by children.

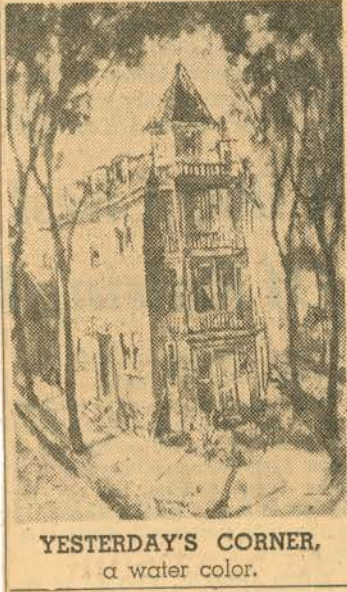
## Art Prize to Couple

# Finger Lakes Award Goes to Husband, Wife

For the first time in the history of the Rochester Finger Lakes Exhibition, the Juror's Show Award will go to a husband and wife team.



**MOTHER AND CHILD,**  
a sculpture.



**YESTERDAY'S CORNER,**  
a water color.

This year's winners are Mr. and Mrs. Morton Kaish, 320 McGuire Rd., and they will receive their awards tonight at 8:30 at the Memorial Art Gallery where the exhibition will open to the public tomorrow.

The winning twosome attended Syracuse University College of Fine Arts and are now working in the Art Department of Sibley's. Kaish received his award for a watercolor of a scene in Syracuse, "Yesterday's Corner," and his wife, Luise Meyers Kaish, won on her entry of a 600-pound sculpture of an original study in stone, "Mother and Child."



**KAISH**

OF 1,042 OILS, watercolors, sculptures, drawings, ceramics, prints and craft works submitted from 19 surrounding counties, 317 were selected for the 1951 exhibition.

The gallery will be closed Monday out of respect to the memory of James Sibley Watson who died today. Mr. Watson and his wife were the donors of the art gallery to the University of Rochester.

# About WOMEN

Postoffice Stone Pays  
Sculptor Dividends  
By Pat Barry

"I'll take four tons—and could I please have it delivered?" That's the way Mrs. Luise Kaish, 320 McGuire Rd., Greece, bought part of the old Syracuse Postoffice. And at \$3 a ton it was a bargain because today, a year later, her "Mother and Child" carved from "postoffice bluestone" shares the Jurors' Show Award in the Memorial Art Gallery's current Finger Lakes Exhibit. The prize that goes with the honor is an exhibition during the Gallery's coming season, an opportunity to be cherished by any artist.

Mrs. Kaish admits it was a "wild shopping spree" that last Summer led her down from the Syracuse University "hill," where she studied sculpturing, to the downtown section of Syracuse where wreckers were demolishing the formidable postoffice building.

"There were thousands of tons of precious Onondaga bluestone—it made my mouth water," she said.

"It's almost as hard as granite, compact and satisfying and it works up into a beautiful finish. It's native to New York State, but the quarries have all been deserted, and you can't get it anymore. I wanted some of that stuff awfully bad."

She hunted up the foreman, who told her she could have all she could use. And the wreckers, impressed by the pretty young sculptor, dumped four tons of the valuable stone right in the backyard of the school's sculptoring studio where Mrs. Kaish and her classmates could chisel on it at their pleasure.

"They were only going to use it to fill in for a dam, anyway," she said. "And what's a dam as a work of art?"

"Postoffice bluestone," as she now calls it, is not the only medium that turns into beautifying figures under Mrs. Kaish's talented fingers. Her studio, a backroom of her apartment, is cluttered with marble slabs, bags of plaster and clay, and choice chunks of apple and cherrywood salvaged from woodpiles in the neighborhood.

One of her best works is "The Saltine Warrior," a bronze statue 10½ feet high, which will be unveiled Friday morning on the SU campus during Class Day exercises. The statue is the gift of the graduating class to the university, and Mrs. Kaish was commissioned to do the job when she won a competition among students of Syracuse's famed sculptor, Ivan Mestrovic.

Her husband, Mort Kaish, who shares her studio, is also the water-color artist who is her co-winner of the Jurors award, one of the highest given by the gallery. The prize is usually given to one exhibition contributor only, and this year is the first time the honor was divided between two artists—and a husband and wife team at that. As a result, the two young artists who studied together in college will have their first exhibition in partnership.



LUISE  
KAISH



**HONORS FOR ARTIST**—Presenting Luise Meyers Kaish (center) The H. H. Sullivan Prize of \$50 for her sculpture in stone, "Mother and Child," is H. H. Sullivan (right). Looking on is Raymond J. Fowler, who presented another Rochester Finger Lakes Exhibition award.

## Unknowns Take Awards At Finger Lakes Exhibit

Hitherto unsung artists were top prize-winners last night when the annual Finger Lakes Exhibit was unveiled at Memorial Art Gallery.

Present to view the 317 paintings, ceramics, sculpture, watercolors, prints, and textiles, were more than 2,000 artists and patrons.

C. Bruce Unwin, RIT student, Mary Wasserman, Paul J. Gedeohn, and Mort Kaish, all of Rochester, and Allen Gaines of Cazenovia and George Vander Sluis of Syracuse were the top winners in the painting class.

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**KAISH AND HIS WIFE**, Luise Meyers Kaish, whose sculpture, "Mother and Child" took the H. H. Sullivan prize, won the annual Jurors Show Award, an invitation to hold an exhibit at the Gallery.

The B. Forman Company prize for the most significant painting in any medium was won by Unwin's painting "Below Mill Street."

Mary Wasserman's "Midnight Freight" won the Gould Purchase Award and Gedeohn's "Dying Warrior" won the Barnard, Porter, Remington and Fowler Prize in oil painting.

A painting, "Boats and Water," by Gaines took the Art Patrons Purchase Award. "Earth Forms" by Vander Sluis won the Fannie Benjamin Prize.

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**OTHER PRIZES** were announced

by Mrs. Gertrude Herdle Moore, Gallery director, as follows:

Ceramic sculpture—William E. Ehrich and Franz Wildenhain, Rochester.  
Ceramics—Wildenhain and Karl Meng, Rochester.

Junior League Prize for workmanship—John Frip of Rochester for a bowl.  
Weavers—Anne Somers and Helen Hironimus, Rochester.

Amy Croughton Memorial Purchase Prize for Prints—James D. Havens of Fairport for "Bristol Valley."

The Finger Lakes Exhibit will be open to the public today and remain open through June 3.

## Newcomers Claim Art Show Prizes

Newcomers claimed the majority of prizes awarded last night at the unveiling of Rochester's annual biggest-show-of-the-year in the art talent realm—the Finger Lakes Exhibit at Memorial Art Gallery.

More than 2,000 artists and patrons swarmed through the gallery rooms to view the 317 works—paintings, ceramics, sculpture, watercolors, prints and textiles—chosen out of a total of 1,042 submitted from 29 Western New York communities.

Top awards in the painting class went to C. Bruce Unwin, Rochester Institute of Technology student, Mary Wasserman, Paul J. Gedeohn and Mort Kaish, all of Rochester, and to Allen Gaines of Cazenovia and George Vander Sluis of Syracuse.

The annual Jurors' Show Award, an invitation to hold an exhibit at the gallery, went to Kaish and to his wife, Luise Meyers Kaish, whose sculpture, "Mother and Child," won the H. H. Sullivan prize. It was the first time the award was ever given to a husband and wife team.

Unwin's painting, "Below Mill Street," won the B. Forman Company prize for the most significant painting in any medium. The Marion Stratton Gould Purchase Award went to Mary Wasserman for "Midnight Freight." The Barnard, Porter, Remington and Fowler Prize in oil painting was awarded to Gedeohn for "Dying Warrior." Honorable mention was given to Zoute, North Rose artist. A painting, "Boats and Water" by Gaines took the Art Patrons Purchase Award, and Vander Sluis's "Earth Forms," received the Fannie Benjamin Prize.

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## **Sibley Artists Win Awards at Gallery**

Luise and Mort Kaish, Sibley artists and members of the advertising staff, broke a precedent recently by jointly winning the "Jurors' Show Award" as a result of entering two art pieces in the current Finger Lakes Exhibition at the Memorial Art Gallery. The award is presented annually, usually to one person, whom the judges choose to put on an exhibit during the coming Gallery season; this is the first time in Gallery history, however, that the award has been presented to a husband and wife team.

Luise's prize-winning piece was a stonecarving entitled "Mother and Child," an individualistic statue about two feet high made of Onondaga blue stone (found only in the Upper New York State Region, and almost as hard as granite). Besides helping to win the Jurors' Show Award, Luise's piece won the H. H. Sullivan award for sculpture.

In addition to winning renown in Rochester, Luise Kaish is noted for her sculpture at Syracuse University, her Alma Mater. This June on the Syracuse U. Campus, as part of the graduation ceremony, a bronze statue of an Indian, "The Saltine Warrior" (rallying symbol representing the spirit of the University) will be unveiled. The statue, which Luise made just before coming to Rochester a year ago, stands 10½ feet high. Before she took up sculpture, Luise was a painter, until she went to Mexico to paint; it was there that she became interested in ceramics and sculpture.

A waterproof painting named "Yesterday's Corner" was Mort Kaish's contribution toward winning the coveted Jurors' Show Award for the couple. In painting the piece, an expressionistic watercolor of a house, the artist was inspired by a house in Syracuse, which he passed many, many times on his way to school. "Although the house was homely as sin," says Mort, "there was something strangely intriguing about it, and it was made beautiful by tall elms on either side. One day we woke up to find the elms cut down, and the house looking pathetic and plain." However, the house still intrigued Mort Kaish, who painted it in all its strange fascination,

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## **Sibley Artists Win Awards**

(Continued from page 1)

as he remembered it, with the tall elms growing on either side — "Yesterday's Corner." Mort is also a graduate of Syracuse University (where he met Luise). Although he is chiefly interested in painting and sketching, he, too, has begun to dabble in sculpture.

Last Wednesday, May 23, Louise Wilson interviewed the two young artists (who, by the way, also served as judges in this year's Scholastic Art Exhibit) on Tower Clock Time over WHAM. The prize-winning pieces have been on exhibit at the Memorial Art Gallery since May 4. So, until June 4, the closing date of the Finger Lakes Exhibit, Sibleyites will have an opportunity to see a bit of life through the eyes of the two young Sibley artists.