

The Brewster Society

NEWS SCOPE



A newsletter for designers, collectors and lovers of kaleidoscopes

Vol. 7, Number 2
Summer 1992

Do We Really Need More Kaleidoscopes?

Notes from Strathmore...by David Wallace

Recession, violence, scarcity of resources — regardless of one's situation, it has been a tough year all over the world. Entire systems which have sustained us for so long are being questioned, or are falling apart. The dynamics of exchange are under severe examination; justice itself is suddenly viewed in the popular press as a commodity, subject to issues of class and persuasion. Chaos has led to a continual cry for leadership; the lack of leadership has led to a sense of a societal downward-spiral, a public sense of hopelessness, a belief that the answers to our problems are too complicated, too large to be possible.

What does this have to do with kaleidoscopes?

Our recent convention at Strathmore provoked a series of questions for me about this extraordinary corner of the universe we share -- the love, the art, the commerce of kaleidoscopes — and has colored my daily life since. A few thoughts from that experience:

The very word "recession" implies a moving back: when we recess, we both make a break from our current activity, and retreat from it — returning to something prior. (Remember recess at school? What memories of both longing and welcome joy spring from retracing the anticipation of that break from the classroom. I also am thinking of the recession in church — the retreat from the celebration that has occurred at the altar as we leave the holy space and go back into our worldly, everyday lives).

As I listened to our community's stories of lives led over the last months, I kept hearing these themes of stopping and retreating. A poor business climate, with its accompanying hard lessons, has forced many to reconsider their work, and their relation-

ship to it. Some are seeing this as a moment in which to go back to basics — to bring their personal and business economies back into a more elemental dynamic. Others are using this economic moment to take a break, literally to reconstruct their lives, or begin travelling towards new ones. The human response to this time has indeed been one of recession — a sometimes-painful stoppage of one mode of being and a move "back to basics", back to the fundamental.

We can argue over the solution to this country's economic woes forever — and probably will. (Of course, it is narcissistic to think these are merely American problems—they are global in aspect). But I would like to assert that a fundamental problem

to this recession period is not being addressed at all, and that is the aesthetic issue.

We are nothing in what we do in the kaleidoscope community, if we are not celebrants of the aesthetic. The kaleidoscope is unique in that it is functionally unnecessary, yet it inspires a devoted, passionate following; the initiation of which is impossible by words, made possible only by experience. At its best, it conjures up a combination of the ever-changing and the always-beautiful; like Platonic forms, it remains as an image for that which is perfect, for it contains all that is imperfect, perfectly, with grace and symmetry. It is a tripart marriage of science, craft and art, and thus of the mind, the hand and the heart — which is as close a description of being civilized as we're likely to come upon.

When we talk about change, we invariably talk about political change, or economic solutions—more

"I do not claim that kaleidoscopes will save us, or heal the planet, or solve racial injustice...(but) they give shape and voice to our lives—and remind us that in our deepest selves lies the desire for beauty and harmony."

(continued on page 6)

Premiering...

The Cozy Scope Salon™

Cozy Baker is turning her scope-laden home into an intimate mini-museum for Brewster members, thus beginning what may develop into an exclusive series of affiliated "Cozy Scope Salons.™" In addition to hundreds of kaleidoscopes, visitors can experience a live presentation of Barbara Mitchell's SpectraSphere in a private little theatre.

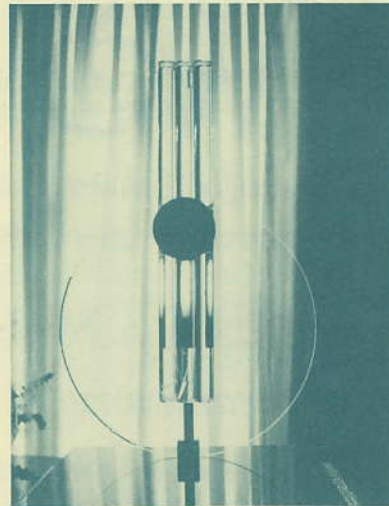
A special library will contain a few original Brewster books and papers along with all the books, magazine articles and newspaper clippings pertaining to kaleidoscopes. Here too, video tapes, including TV segments, artist demonstrations, images, etc., can be viewed and albums of convention and exhibition photographs will be available for perusal.

Eight spacious, light-filled rooms decorated with kaleidoscopes and kaleidoscope-related art, feature special one-of-a-kinds, such as "Emotions" made of an unpolished tusk from the old ivory collection of Cozy's late son, Randall, and one which utilizes antique lantern slides for the objective end. There are limited editions including an ornate stained glass kaleidoscope with a built-in-waterfall and the fabled Van Dyke Series II and III. One will also find all of the Brewster award-winners, even Willie Stevenson's "Whatever Tilts Your Kilt" which is cerebrally synchronized to music.

In addition to parlor and sculptural scopes there are rare and not so rare antique scopes as well as important new scopes such as the exciting floor model, two-mirror teleidoscope, "Jedburgh" by Larry Christensen, the sleek, ultra-modern "Pipe Dream" by Adam



"Jedburgh" by Larry Christensen



"Pipe Dream 1" by Adam Peiperl

Peiperl and Glenn and Ben Straub's kaleidoscope merry-go-round "Kaleiope." These are but a few of the outstanding scopes designed and crafted by America's leading artists which can be seen at the Cozy Scope Salon™ in a continually updated display.

A special Scope-registry is going to be set up for those who might be planning a wedding or other event for which kaleidoscopes are the appropriate gift. A swapping or exchange service will be available as well as a finding service for sold-out editions, antique scopes and customized items.

This treasure-trove of kaleidobilia will be available by appointment only on two designated days a week commencing in July or August. Please phone or write for scheduling information.



1993 Convention Returns to Louisville, Ky.

The fifth annual Brewster Society convention will be held in Louisville, Ky. June 18, 19, and 20, 1993. A Convention Bureau comprised of the five regional chairmen and their committees is going to take over the planning and operation of future national conventions. Each region will be responsible for naming a convention chairperson to be in charge the year the convention will be held in that region.

The Atlanta Chapter was the first to become active in staging small area Brewster Society events and the Southeast will be the first region to host a national convention. Ledell Murphy (2500 Fox Ridge, Albany, GA 31707) is chairman and welcomes suggestions and ideas for next year's convention weekend.

In 1994 the convention will take place in San Francisco. In 1995 it will be held in the Midwest, and in 1996 the location will be the Northwest. Watch for future updates in each newsletter.

Regional Reports

Midwest Brewster Conclave in Galena

The committee members in the Midwest would like to extend a cordial invitation to all Brewster members to attend the second Midwest Brewster Meeting in Galena, IL, October 3, 4, and 5. Galena is an historic area known as the "City That Time Forgot."

We also extend an invitation to artists to exhibit their work, even if they cannot attend. During a featured "meet the artist" sale the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

In addition to workshops and demonstrations, there will be a display of noteworthy kaleidoscopes by three major collectors: Paul Larson of Lile, Illinois, Doug VanDamme and Clint Anderson (owner of the Kaleidoscope Inn), both of Baldwin, Wisconsin. Cozy will be present to discuss kaleidoscopes, old and new, assist in your selections, and autograph her books.

Monday will be "business day" when shopkeepers can place orders with artists for the Christmas season and a scope photo session will provide a collector's guide for shopkeepers.

Special events being planned include a river boat gambling cruise on the Mississippi, a hayride, and stagecoach ride with covered wagon steak-feed.

Because of the large number of tourists in Galena at this time, RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IMMEDIATELY. The center of activity will be the DeSoto House Hotel (800-343-6562). Or, if you prefer, there are numerous B&Bs, many dating back to the 1800s (call Visitor's Bureau 800-747-9377). When making hotel reservations, be sure to say you are a member of the Brewster Society. Send \$30 registration fee to Donna Schilling, 228 South Main Street, Galena, IL 61036.

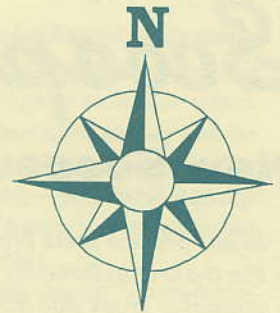


Kaleidovention Northwest

Northwest members of the Brewster Society invite all interested kaleidoscope lovers to the second Kaleidovention N.W. The Kaleidovention will convene in Seattle on Saturday, July 25, 1992, between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at The Meeting Place at Pike Place Market. Northwest artisans Shelley and Randy Knapp, Sallie and Luc Durette, Barbara Mitchell, and midwest scopemakers Peggy Burnside and Steve Kittleson as well as the premier collector Cozy Baker, plan to attend. The scopemakers in attendance will have scopes available for sale at the meeting. There will be a \$10.00 registration fee, to be paid at the door.

After the convention, a dinner for those interested will be planned—perhaps a trip to the Indian Village at Tillicum, or a ride on the dinner train to Ste. Michelle Winery. Suggestions are welcome.

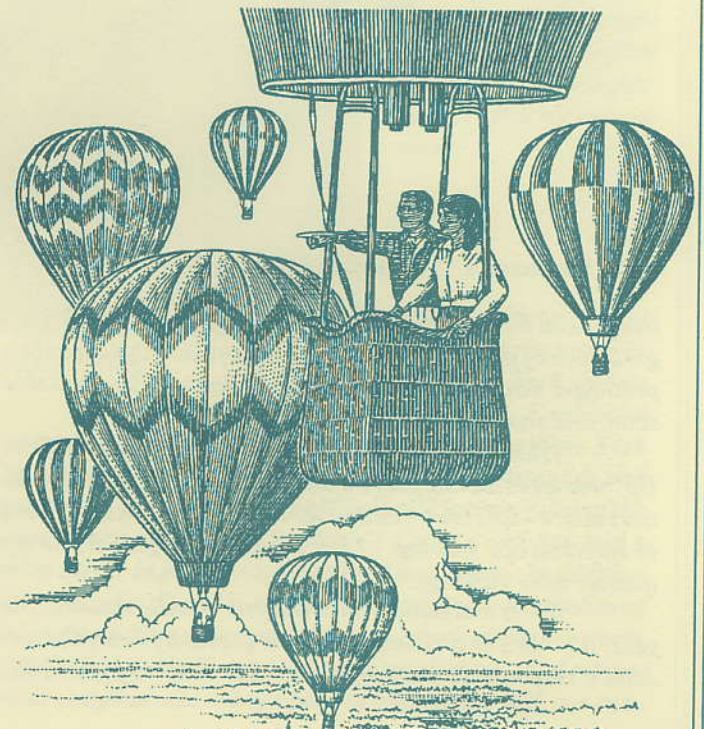
Since the Kaleidovention is being held on the weekend of the Bellevue Arts and Crafts Festival, arrangements will also



be made for a visit there on either Friday afternoon or Sunday. Then for those interested, an excursion to La Conner, Bellingham and Lopez Island is planned, to visit the famed Pilchuck Glass School and certain glass beadmakers in the area. Since dinner spaces, rooms and transportation resources will be limited, those interested should contact Cheryl Leppla (206) 938-3475 as soon as possible, but no later than July 1st.

Southwest to Meet During Hot-Air Balloon Festival

Hot-air balloons will share viewing honors with kaleidoscopes at the Brewster meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 9, 10, and 11. RESERVE NOW to secure a room at the host hotel, Amberley Suites, 7620 Pan American, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 (deadline: July 15th) (800-333-9806). Rates are \$85 single, \$95 double. For a packet including both sight-seeing and conference information, contact area chairman, Martha Benn, 2430 Juan Tabo, Northeast, Suite 141, Albuquerque, NM 87112.



Scoops on Scopes

New Scopes Unveiled at Strathmore

by David Wallace

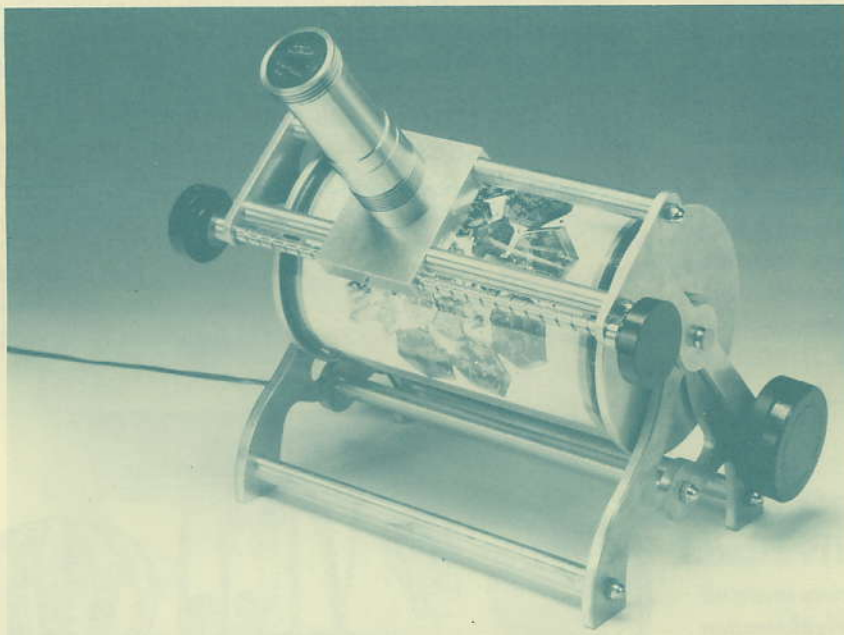
In any process some breakage is inevitable, even desirable. For those of us fortunate enough to watch Willie Stevenson's attempt to break with his old work and keep his art rekindled, the experience has been trying but usually rewarding. His latest vehicle, "The Amaze-ing Doctor Willmeister," is a superb example. Looking like a central device in a Jules Verne novel, the optical system moves laterally (via an elaborate brass screw mechanism) to "read" an image laid carefully onto a moving cylinder beneath. On closer inspection, that image is a maze -- actually an elaborately-illustrated painting by artist David Aaron Russo. The device, therefore, becomes an in-depth exploration of the labyrinth before us, both complicating it and making it more beautiful. Additional

fantastic optical systems within casings of papier-mache, so realistic that I thought they were rocks set on the table to accent other glass pieces. Shaped as both river stones and red bricks, the pieces will be reasonably priced, and John is thinking of a "graffiti series" — bits of painted message on the bricks for those of us urbanites whose aesthetic sense is constantly being asked to accept spray paint as an art material.

Lots of experimenting was evident at the show. Corian, normally a high-tech counter-top material, is being carved as a casing material by several artists — to greatest effect by **Corki Weeks**, whose parlor scope exhibits the solidity and grace possible with the man-made material. **Christie Moody** has joined the ranks of those experimenting with fiber optics in her new scope, and **Adam Peiperl's** sculptural pieces play with mixing many kinds of light. But perhaps the most dramatic new example of a "go-for-it" attitude is shown in the new work by **Peter and Skeeter De Mattia**, artists new to the show.

The Grand/Petite Illusion series experiments with a rectangular form of thin-rolled glass, almost metallic in nature. This houses a two-mirror system that gives off a 48-point mandala viewed through an extended viewing area so large that one feels part of the image. Crystal turning ends tip the pyrex object chamber which contains various colored and twisted glass. My favorite in the series is called "Bound Images" — book size, the side opposite the mirrors is of translucent glass, which gives a colored border to the image. This side also is a free-form edge, and gives the piece a "found object" quality. "Petite Illusion" also gives a lot of punch for its dimensions — almost credit card size, it shows an image which seems impossibly large to fit in such a small space. (A limited edition parlor scope is also available).

Glenn and Ben Straub have been bursting at the seams to show their new jumbo parlor scope, but appropriately delayed its unveiling for Strathmore. A magnificently veneered wooden case houses three trapezoidal mirrors, which give a spherical image (referred in common parlance now as a "geoscope construction" — in tribute to Jack Lazarowski's invention by that name). This uses Ben's flame-worked glass and liquid-filled ampules as an object case. But this is no ordinary single object case — a 2-inch diameter object cell floats within the 6-inch cell.



Willie Stevenson's "The Amaze-ing Doctor Willmeister"

images can be interchanged by the owner. As usual, Willie's great love of precise mechanics is evident, and though only a prototype was available, the final version will be available soon, and should be a real treat.

(This year's version of "Whatever Blows Your Skirt Up" was an elaborate play on the voyeurism that is integral to our culture—and mirrored that same instinct which is inherent in kaleidoscope viewing. I felt compelled to give Willie my quarter after viewing).

Sticks and stones will break your -- well, actually, this year, it's "Bricks and Stones" — new pieces by **John Culver**. John's response to the tough year has been to fashion his

As if this weren't enough (and it could be), there is a second optical system directly above which allows viewing with both eyes. It uses two rectangular mirrored surfaces married to two trapezoidal surfaces parallel to each other, one of which is mirrored. My companion at the show, Robert Westling, describes the image as that of a moving-light carousel going by—a cylinder of moving form and color bending backwards into the scope itself, reminiscent of the best of dance forms. The entire effect is quite mind-boggling, and the Straubs are justly proud of their invention.

On a more Victorian note, we were introduced to the new floral scopes by **Luc and Sallie Durette**, which are a real treat. "Pami's Potpourri" measures some eleven inches in length, and features a removable, turning endpiece full of dried flowers. The resulting image (viewed through a 30/60/90 three-mirrored system) is fantastic; the dimensional effect of the natural colors is gorgeous. And to make it an even more sensual experience, the kaleidoscope is covered with rich tapestry materials — some with roses on a beige background, some colored teal and lavender — each echoing towards a memory of yesterday. The pieces include a sachet for potpourri, so it can be a lovely accessory for a bedroom and a treat for the nose as well as the eye. (I prefer mine unscented, but suspect that I'm in the minority on this one).

I can never say enough about **Steve Gray**, who continues to baffle the eye and surprise us with new constructions. Two new pieces were on display at the show. My favorite "Espy from Within" uses an oval eyepiece of see-through mirror as the opening to the scope, so the image is mysteriously reflected from the unseen side. Both "ends" of the scope — held majestically by Steve's typically amazing woodworking — are object chambers, which turn and can be illuminated separately. The result is a wrap-around of image, a ribboned galaxy of color which takes the breath away.

Sherry Moser's newest edition piece was called "Well, it doesn't have a name yet" at the show — but since then I'm told it's been named "Sphaera," and will remain memorable to anyone who saw it at Strathmore. Deep wine-colored glass holds a series of trapezoidal mirrors which create a geodesic sphere inside, one that seems illuminated throughout by small elements of light — rather like a starlit dodecahedron, with each point of the prismatic solid a sparkling entity. The object case is oil-filled and packed with a cool dichroic mix. Small dichroic windows on the object case add to the mystery of this wonderful new creation, the latest in a marvelously challenging series by this artist.

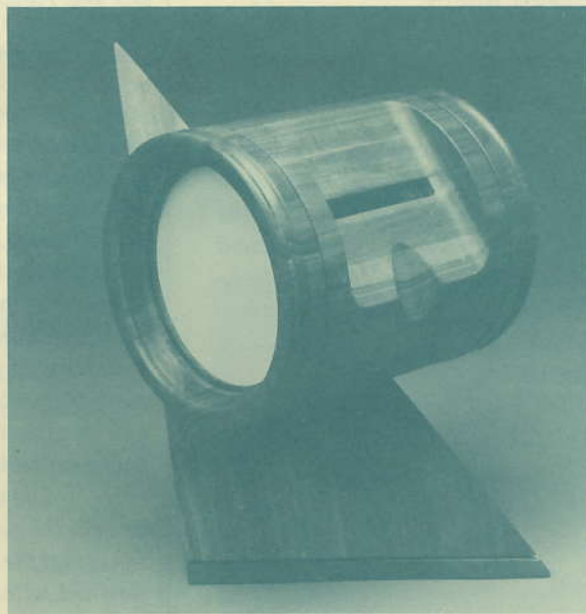
And how exciting to see **Charles Karadimos's** miniature scopes available to the public! These tiny kaleidoscopes — each a cone of color — use the slumped glass technique which Charles has made famous, and include a cord so they can be used as pendants. The tiny two-mirror system is constructed so that no other lens is needed at the opening — you're right on top of a beautiful 8-pointed image, formed from a tiny turning case full of nicely-balanced, lampworked glass.

This was nicely offset by the table-sized, "six-kaleidoscopes-on-one-stand" that Charles also offered at the show. Made of black slumped glass, each scope had a different optical system, and the six varying object chambers are all interchangeable. I looked at my colleague's notes in preparing for this article; for this piece, Robert had simply written: "Wow!!"

Finally, if you're not too squeamish to use it, comes **David Kalish's** "Little Critter Kaleidoscope" — expressly designed for the younger naturalist. He's designed it specifically as a new way of looking at insect life, and it will be priced for a kid-size budget. The paper tube is capped with a removable jar-type lid, and the transparent chamber comes complete with requisite airholes. Just think of the fun this summer with your own fireworks display of live fireflies. A small essay on kindness towards the catch is also included, and it's sure to be a winner amongst young biologists, while older

types can enjoy the artificial foliage included with the package.

One last word: Thanks to all for contributing to a marvelous convention. As in any community, it's important to touch base periodically, to check up on each other, share experiences and know — particularly in the tougher times — that we are not alone.



"Espy from Within" by Steven Gray

Editor's Note: David Wallace is the owner of two New York galleries: *The Enchanted*

Forest and *After the Rain*, the latter featuring New York City's most extensive collection of fine kaleidoscopes and optical toys. A New Mexico native, David is a graduate of the Great Books program at St. John's College and has had a varied career in publishing and direct marketing. In addition to the galleries, David is a writer, and continues his studies of philosophy, history, and psychology — particularly the works of C.G. Jung. He is married to Peggy Sloane, a television writer and producer. They reside in Manhattan with two cats.

Kaleido-Dance Sweeps the Nation!

by Carolyn Bennett

A new dance craze took over the dance floor during the 1992 Brewster Society Convention in Rockville, Md.

After the masquerade banquet, a group of energetic Brewster members were "cutting the rug" at a nearby club when they began to do what comes so naturally to them. While dancing, they began to move their hands in front of their faces in the twisting pantomime that universally conveys kaleidoscope movement.

By the end of the evening (and we do mean end, because this group "closed the joint") even the band was joining in! There was the sax man, the trumpeter, the bass man and the singer with his mike, all holding their instruments up to their eyes, pretending they were kaleidoscopes and twisting them as if they could really see through them!

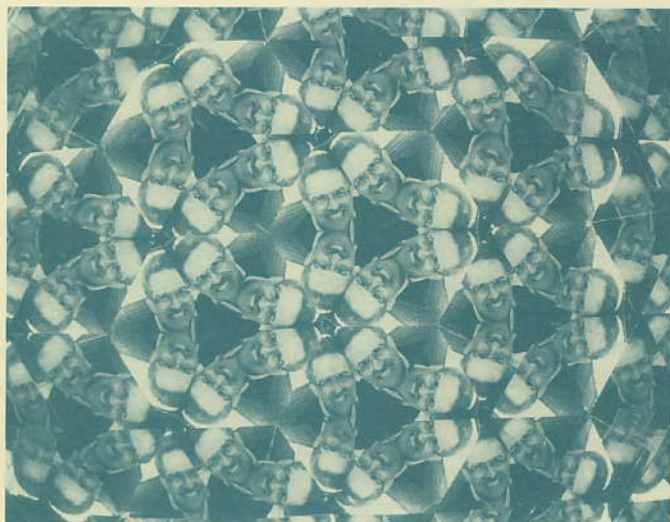
It's a craze! It's fun! It can sweep the nation! Next time you are out on the dance floor try it! Get your friends to try it. Move your feet any which way you want and just add the kaleido-twist to the wrist. It's infectious. It can catch on and we can help raise Kaleido-Consciousness to the entire nation!

So go out and boogie! You never know the next stop might be the Evening News or People Magazine. Expand the circle! Let's dance! The Kaleido-Dance!



Scope Portraits by Joe Polevoi

Joe Polevoi continues to build interest in kaleidoscopes with his unique photography and talks to groups such as Kiwanis and Camera Clubs. He loves to surprise the audience with reassembled scope views of the world around them. Referring to his latest method as the "geodesic technique," Joe uses faces and simple logos as his subject matter. If you need a clever kaleidoscope photo for personal or professional purposes, or just want to discuss the latest scope angles - get in touch with Joe Polevoi, 3513 Hampton Rd, Peperpike, Ohio 44122. Tel. (216) 831-3151.



Two New "How-To" Kaleidoscope Books

The Kaleidoscope Book: A Spectrum of Spectacular Scopes to Make, edited by Thom Boswell, Sterling Publishing Co. (\$20) is now available in area bookstores. Easy to follow step-by-step photographs show exactly how to make every major type of kaleidoscope and colorful photographs portray the newest and best of some of today's leading designers. Ledell Murphy's introduction includes a brief history and synopsis of current trends.

Cheap Thrills: 12 Exciting Low-Cost Kaleidoscope Projects, by Gary Newlin and Ledell Murphy is creative fun for kids and adults alike. "Towel Roll with Pipe-Cleaner Wheel," "Tissue Roll with Frilly Wheel," and "Salt Box with Tapered Mirrors" give you an idea of what this 29 page booklet is all about. The patterns and instructions are explicit and easy-to-follow. Send \$10 to: Cheap Thrills, A Touch of Glass, 421 Haywood Rd., Asheville, NC 28806.

Do We Really Need More Kaleidoscopes ?

(continued from page 1)

jobs, better housing. What I am suggesting is that aesthetic change must be part of the conversation, too — that our imagination of a better world must also include an ongoing dialogue with the mirroring of our souls' beauty, and not merely our pain. If our environment is ugly, how can our daily choices be beautiful? If our cities are dirty and decrepit and addicted, if our suburban countryside is littered with sameness and the wreckage of old automobiles, if the rhetoric of our leaders is colorless and without passion — then how can we expect our citizens to feel hope — which is the true imagination of a better future?

I do not claim that kaleidoscopes will save us, or heal the planet, or solve racial injustice. But I do sense that the difference between recessing and going forward, without breaking, is a combination of imagination and faith, and that these worlds are celebrated daily with each kaleidoscope made, or held in silent reverie, or shared with a companion. These are not merely solipsistic events, for they give shape and voice to our lives — our aesthetic lives — and remind us that in our deepest selves lies the desire for beauty and harmony. It is from these private moments in which we give the imagination some room — inviting it to tea, so to speak — that the possibility for an aesthetic healing of the world's choices begins.

AUCTION BID BUYS SCOPES FOR KIDS



The "Strathmore Collaboration" kaleidoscope, assembled and finished during the convention's "Birth of a Scope" demonstration, was auctioned by a sealed bid. Dr. Daniel Robinson, the winning bidder, designated the University Children's Hospital at Hermann and M.D. Anderson Cancer Institute in Hous-

ton to be the recipients of kaleidoscopes (also of his choosing) purchased with the \$1,250 high bid.

These two centers for treating seriously ill children have already received 10 copies of the SpectraSphere Video Tape, 30 Illusions by Wildewood Creative Products, a

selection of 48 scopes by C. Bennett Scopes, and an assortment of over 100 Gemini Kaleidoscopes.

A matching bid by the Brewster Society, for a duplicate scope made at the demonstration, will provide additional gifts for various worthwhile projects, including SpectraSphere video tapes for nursing homes. Please contact nursing homes that you are interested in and determine if they have a VCR and if they would play it. This could be a wonderful diversion for both patients and their visitors. It is important that there be a personal contact rather than a random mailing. Please send your name along with the name and address of the nursing home to the Brewster Society, stating that you will be personally responsible for delivering the tape and one will be sent directly to you. This offer applies to other similar facilities and organizations.

Guardian Angel Program

To commence our "Guardian Angel" plan for contributing scopes to children's hospitals, centers for abused and neglected children, cancer clinics and the like, Barbara Mitchell is offering her colorful Cosmic Egg scopes at the wholesale price of \$90.00 per dozen, plus \$7.50 shipping costs. Just send your name and address and the organization you wish to receive the scopes along with the payment to Barbara Mitchell, 4900 Baldy Mountain Rd., Sandpoint, ID 83864 (208-263-0532). Each "Guardian Angel" will receive a token of appreciation.

Kaleidoscope T-Shirts & Tote Bags

By popular demand, Steve Kittleson and Peggy Burnside of Woodland Glass are offering their colorful mandala on T-shirts and tote bags.

Price List:

T-Shirts \$18.00

Size L, XL, XXL

Mock T (Long Sleeve)

One Size \$22.00

Sweatshirt \$28.00

XL, XXL

Tote Bags \$22.00

T-Shirts and sweatshirts are heavy weight, 100% cotton.

Tote bags are heavy cotton canvas.

To order call 1-800-952-4810.

Some Winning Costumes from the Masquerade Dinner



"The Monkey on George Bush's Back" was the theme of the costume worn by Pat Kehs (above left). With him is Steven Colley.



left: Happy Clowns Bill O'Connor and friend.



Mary Wills of Nellie Bly brought her tribe of Hopi Kachinas. L. to r., Corki Weeks, Mary Jo, Mary Wills and Henry Bergeson.

Calendar of Kaleidoscopic Events

June 20-21

Kaleidoscope Show during the Galena Art Walk, Schilling Studio III, 228 South Main, Galena, Ill. (815) 777-3700.

June 27-28

Grand Opening of Glenn and Ben Straub's third studio expansion -- The Artworks at Donekers, 160 N. State St., Ephrata, Pa. 17522 (717) 773-6767.

July 25-26

Northwest Brewster Society meeting (see article, p. 3), Seattle, Wash. (206) 938-3475.

August 3 -
September 30

Davlins presents "The 1992 National Kaleidoscope Exhibit" - Four shops in the Minneapolis area will share 8 weeks of Kaleidoscope Festivities: artists, demonstrations, workshops and new scopes: 2028 Burnsville Center, Burnsville (612) 892-3665; 12533A Wayzata Blvd. Minnetonka (612) 591-5852; 116 Rosedale Center, Roseville (612) 631-2162. Cozy Baker will be present for opening reception Aug. 3 from 4-8 p.m. at Southdale Center, 6601 France Ave. South, Edina, Minn. (612) 926-6838.

September 19-20

Kaleidoscope demonstration by Karl Schilling during Antique Show at The Glass Scope, 308A Riverfront Center, Red Wing, Minn. (612) 591-5852.

September 10-
October 28

"Kaleidoscope Celebration—Fall '92." Representing over 50 major artists, Eileen Kremen Gallery, 619 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton, Calif. (714) 879-1391. Reception and artists' surprise party Sept. 12, 1-5 p.m.

THE BREWSTER SOCIETY

100 Severn Ave., Suite 605
Annapolis, Md. 21403
(301) 365-1855

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