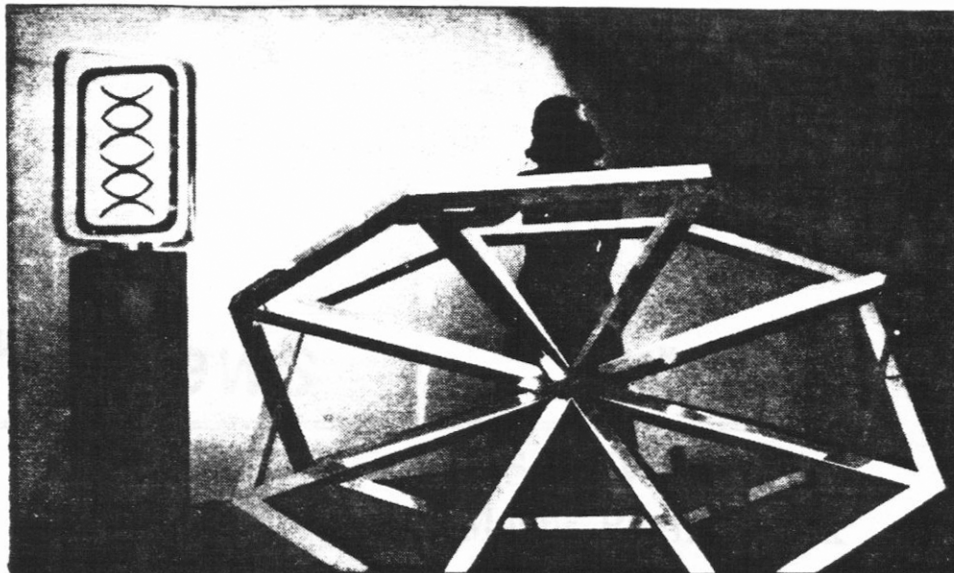


**THE  
MARK  
OF  
AN  
ARTIST**



Artist Phyllis Mark with two works to be exhibited here.



"Enclosed Ellipse"



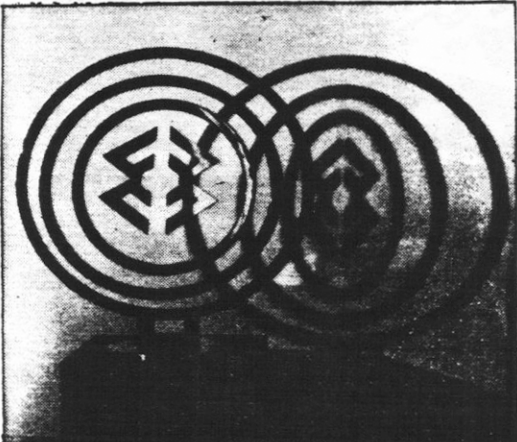
"Wheel Octagon"



Sculpture to wear



"Sail Structure I" with new sails installed for Fort Wayne.



"Bronze Web"



"Blue Chroma," motorized sail structure.

**T** BY CONNIE TREXLER

he purity of polished metal, the never-duplicated moments of cloth in wind and organic shapes revolving at a stately pace make up Phyllis Mark's art, which will go on exhibit at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art Friday.

Mark's roots have been in New York City all her life, but she hasn't always been a sculptor. Even study at The New School with Seymour Lipton failed to interest her in the three-dimensional medium.

Shiny reflections, movement and the inescapable fact of the Earth rotating beneath her did the trick. She's a painter no longer.

"I'm very interested in interaction," she said during a telephone interview from her New York studio. "Maybe that's too unspecific a word."

"I like people to think of art as something that's not peculiar or special. You don't need to be an expert of any kind to enjoy contemporary art. You do have to accept the fact artists are serious, they're not putting people on, they're following their own aesthetic."

"If you come to my show with an idea of enjoying what's there and not worrying about understanding, you can use your eyes and then form opinions."

"There's a lot of pleasure there you may have failed to see by forming opinions beforehand."

"I'd like people to take pleasure in the kites, sculpture, colors and light. I enjoy people experiencing the work. I like to be in public places," she said.

She will be in public places, from the kite flying party at McMillen Park beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday to her works at the museum (1202 W. Wayne St.), the Performing Arts Center downtown and Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.

Her show at the museum opens with a members' preview Friday and will close July 29. The museum is open 1-8 p.m. Tuesdays, 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. It is closed Mondays. No admission is charged.

A dinner-lecture is scheduled for Thursday at the museum. For reservation information, call the museum. Mark's lecture on her art at the museum is open to the public at noon July 16.

Kites and banners called Sky Crayons will be at the Young People's Wing during her exhibit. The Sky Crayons are a good example of how her work grows out of earlier works.

"I became interested in them through using the wind in large outdoor works," she said. One of those large outdoor works will be in Fort Wayne, a large metal framework with colorful sails.

"I realized I wanted to know much more about the wind, and the wind is invisible," she said. "I wanted something to articulate the wind, so I made large streamers and flew them from the roof of my studio. It's giving the wind a crayon to draw itself."

All of Mark's work in Fort Wayne will be for sale, including a special edition commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art of small Sculpture to Wear. The show is supported by grants from the Indiana Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts.

Connie Trexler is  
The News-Sentinel's arts editor