

Artists Didn't Want Her Work To Be Like Play

By MELDA LYNN
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When Phyllis Mark was a grade-school student, she was turned off from art because the teacher concentrated on types of work which "only gave me tremendous frustration.

"It was a progressive private school, where we were taught to bring out free expression. The art was to be more like play. It worked the wrong way with me. I had always wanted to draw, but never had the chance," the New York artist said.

A chance remark, that she

would like to draw, made to a family friend who is an interior decorator, started Mrs. Mark on her way to success.

An exhibit of her kinetic sculpture is at Images Gallery, through Dec. 31, and she has had two editions of her kinetic jewelry sold through the Modern Museum of Art in New York City.

In Toledo last week for the exhibition opening, Mrs. Mark said that in the beginning she was advised to take some classes and learn to draw room settings to scale.

"I began my class and the teacher told me that I was too

good to limit myself to that type of work. I was encouraged to go on into other areas. She really believed in me and taught me to set goals for myself as a full-fledged artist."

As Mrs. Mark continued to experiment in art, she gradually "became aware of space and forms, especially the way in which forms make patterns and shadows on walls when they move."

She began making a relief style of sculpture from wood, and eventually included specific lighting and movement for each piece.

"My husband, Bud, taught

me all about electricity, and I began building my own motors for the bases of my sculptures, to make them move.

Mrs. Mark then turned from wood to other materials, and now does pieces in aluminum, steel, and silver.

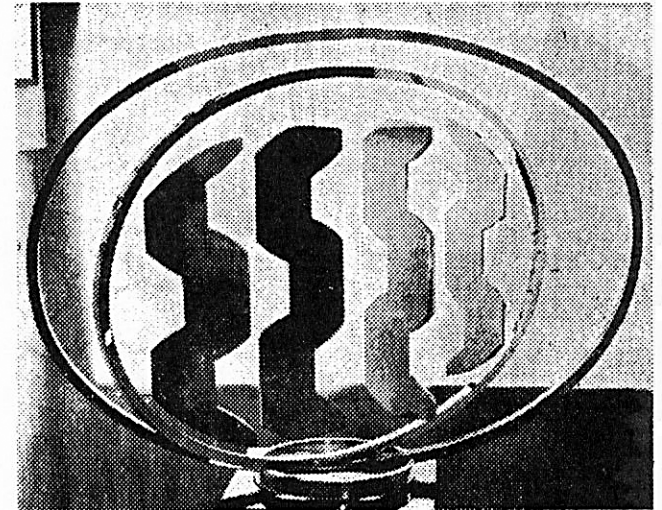
"I believe that more people should be able to own sculpture," the artist said. In pursuit of this theory, she now has a factory that issues signed editions of her work.

The jewelry which she makes can be displayed as an art form when it is not being worn.

"The museums of the country," Mrs. Mark said, "have done such a marvelous job of educating the public. People are really excited about art, and this excitement is moving out of New York to other cities. People in those cities want to see and talk with the artists. New York is no longer the art center of the country."

Though she is not associated with the women's movement, the artist believes that feminism has made it easier for women to make a living in the art world.

"I have had requests from colleges which want a woman sculptor on their faculty, and art collectors are now asking for art work done by women. This never would have happened without the women's movement."



ALUMINUM ART. "Double Oval," by Phyllis Mark is included in the exhibition of the New York artist's kinetic sculpture and sculpture to wear at Images Gallery through December. The work is constructed of polished aluminum, is 27 by 19 inches, and the price is \$2,200.