

# She Talks To Her Art

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WINSTON-SALEM—Art in the closets, art in the bathroom, art in the cupboards, art on the floors—and oh yes, art on the walls.

"I don't have it under the beds any more," Mrs. Ira Julian said. "I'm better organized now."

Mrs. Julian has been collecting art since the day she couldn't resist buying a painting by Susan Moore called "Pink Expressions." It not only started her collection, it gave her a regional push.

Susan Moore is a Winston-Salem artist, and although Ruth Julian has other works (Rouault, Picasso, I. Rice Pereira, Abraham Ratner) most of the artists represented have some connection with the area, and many of them are her personal friends.

It's hard not to be a friend of Ruth's. There aren't many strangers in her world.

She has the same personal feeling about the art that surrounds her. She takes it right into her life, enjoys it, uses it

every day, even—she confesses—talks to it.

"When I go out, I say 'Goodbye, you all.' Anybody would think I was crazy."

Communication seems natural, because much of the collection is "people" art. Although Mrs. Julian includes abstract and op art in the family, she leans strongly toward the figurative—because her husband prefers it, she said.

Her visitors are greeted in the front yard by three big metal "creatures," witty found sculpture by Winston-Salem artist Ernest Ilman, with titles like "The Iceman Cometh" and "Ladybird Johnson." On the hospitable front door are abstract enamels-on-copper put together to form a figure, by Florence Ilman, the sculptor's wife.

Among the 400 or more pieces in the house, 200 are by figurative painter Robert Broderson and 60 are "people pots" and fantastic "facades" by Tom Suomalainen—as many haunting faces and figures as a medieval cathedral.



Mrs. Ira Julian In Her Living Room Of Art

Broderson, now in New York, was at Duke when she discovered the work that immediately convinced her of his greatness. Suomalainen, a particular favorite of Winston-Salem collectors, keeps his home base at nearby Walnut Cove although he teaches in New Jersey.

Also among her North Carolina collection are six large

paintings by Charlotte artist Maud Gatewood, unusual fired-decal ceramics by Ron Garfinkel, John Nygren's glass, and dozens of works by Winston-Salem artists and other Carolinians. There are cupboards full of traditional N. C. pottery.

Whatever their style, the contemporary pictures and sculpture live comfortably together, covering the white

walls without crowding, clustered along the hearth, ranged on shelves and tables. Multicolored pillows on a white sofa pick up the brilliant shades of the paintings.

The Julians are having their house done over now by the distinguished New York decorator, Sarah Hunter Kelly, whose love for contemporary art matches Mrs. Julian's. "She wants me to cover every

inch of wall," Ruth said.

She was tickled over a fantastic bargain in Italian fabric for upstairs. "I'm going to have the sexiest bedroom in North Carolina," she said. A shrewd businesswoman who had her own finance company in Winston-Salem, she's also planning a very practical

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