

**HERB
ARNOLD**

**BEYOND
FUNCTION**



THE EAGLE
13' x 6'

**SEPTEMBER 2 -
OCTOBER 3, 1986
FIREHOUSE GALLERY
NASSAU COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
GARDEN CITY, N.Y.**



Artist Statement . . .

My world is magical, it consists of remarkable objects other people discard. The delight and excitement felt, knows no bounds when I find small rusted springs which is immediately seen as curls, surrounding a round majestic face. Old fashioned bath tub legs, each with the previous owners colors become members of a jury in an oak box setting. This vision of association through line and form beyond the objects function, immediately suggests a special place either as an individual sculpture or part of an intricate one.

Herbert Arnold

COVER

THE EAGLE — Power and Hunger! An interesting technical note concerns the truck coil springs that make up the powerful wings. The coil springs were forced into tension and welded into that position. The jaws are bolt cutters; the beak a hoist hook.

HERB ARNOLD

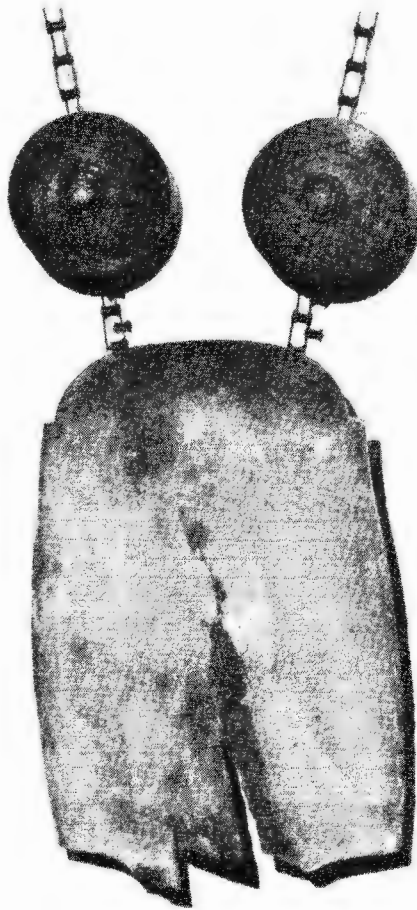
**BEYOND
FUNCTION**

FOUND OBJECT SCULPTURE

SEPTEMBER 2 - OCTOBER 3, 1986

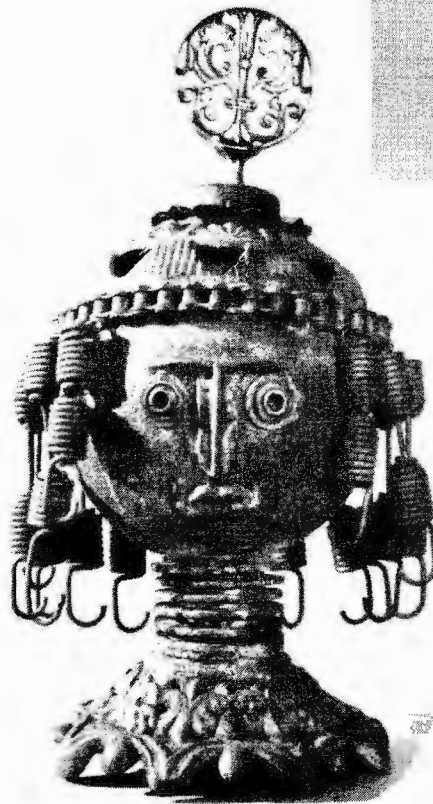
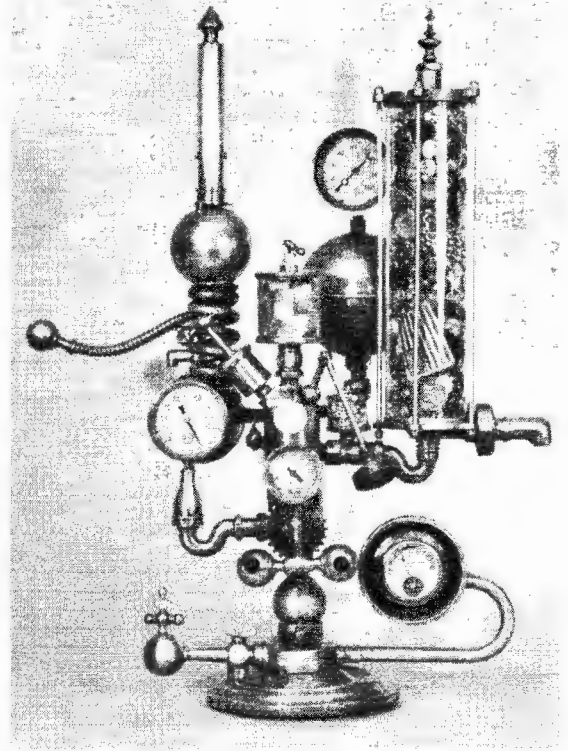
ARTIST'S RECEPTION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 3-6 P.M.

FIREHOUSE GALLERY
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK



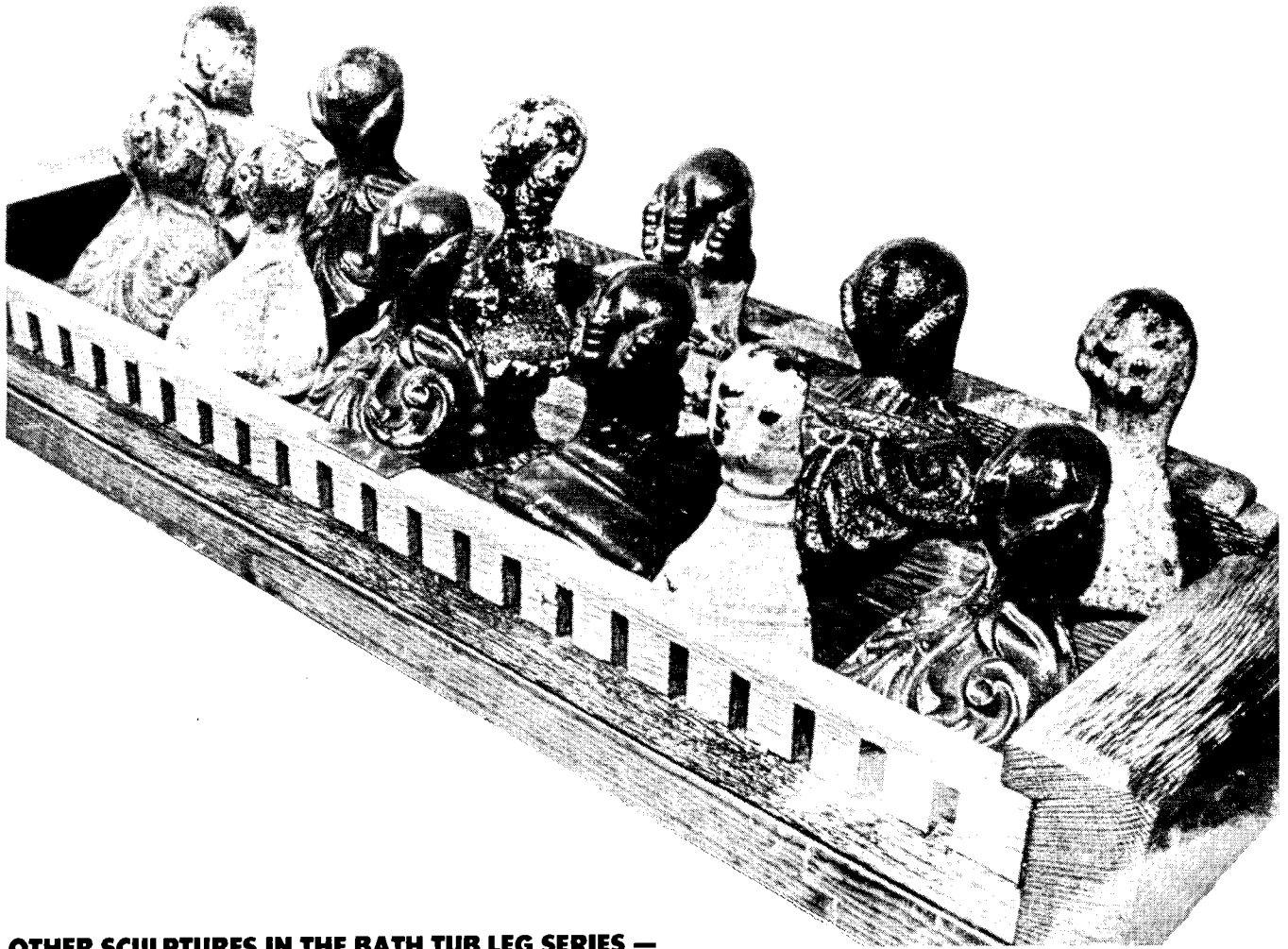
UNTITLED (TORSO)— When I retrieved this torso from a factory fire, I knew I had to find breasts somewhere to finish my statement. Two years later an optical manufacturer provided them. The chain belt united this female form.

BRASS PENTAGON — My frustration with Pentagon purchases produced the theme for this sculpture. All brass parts from gold mining equipment from the Sierras, one of a kind plumbing parts from a demolished San Francisco mansion, obsolete marine parts, flags, military buttons, and a lamp base are some of the contents within this sculpture. The waste plunger is perhaps the most expressive part of this form that does nothing and goes nowhere.



BRIDE OF BALI - My favorite resource is the National Geographic magazine.

THE JURY — The first use of bath tub legs involved twelve assorted tub legs placed in an oak box. The legs had the previous owner's colors.



OTHER SCULPTURES IN THE BATH TUB LEG SERIES —

OUR CROWD
COMBO
PHILHARMONIC
ANGEL
MAESTRO
SKIER

PIPER
JUSTICE
COMMUTERS
COBBLER
PIANO PLAYER
(Partial List)

Comments from the Curator.

The more I looked the more I saw, and the more I understood. Herb Arnold's sculpture is so much more than just found objects positioned together. He creates, with a passion and sensibility, a marriage of multi-functional objects that are reborn with a character all their own. Whether it be the whimsical GOONEY BIRD which contrasts delightful simplicity against kinetic tension or THE EAGLE with its 13' wing spread and bold stance, which is quite sobering. The BRASS PENTAGON hints at Arnold's keen wit and is satirical in nature. Each piece is so much more than just the sum of its parts. Within each is a oneness of purpose, thought, and spirit. With the coldness of steel, or the lifelessness of a dead tree limb, Arnold creates an antithesis — a work of art alive with charm and emotion.

During the preparation of this exhibition I had the opportunity to meet with Herb on several occasions and discuss his work. The vitality and commitment of the artist is certainly mirrored in each piece. I asked Herb Arnold to comment further on his works. I'd like to share his comments with you.



TEMPEST IN A TEA POT — These bronze legs which were dies, were made to commercially produce dolls legs. They hung in my studio until the copper teapot came into my possession.

FATHER AND SON — Father and Son needs to share the limelight with Mother and Child. *(Collection of Joseph and Marcia Katz)*

SERENA — The first bronze casting I ever made from five found parts.

STEER HEAD — Ice tongs with handles turned. *(Collection of Jack and Berta Hershcoph)*

TIDE DELIVERY — (Exactly that.) A walk on the beach collecting the goodies two reliable tides deliver each day.

ROCKIN DUCK — The contrast of an old rusted pulley part together with a fitted piece of wood.

AFRICAN PRINCESS — Bicycle chains seemed so appropriate for an African hairdo.

THE FEMALE MOTORCYCLE COP — This piece is an excellent example of found art. The plate steel was obviously used to cut out needed circles and other shapes. The scrap left with two wheels added became a finished sculpture. *(Collection of Richard and Joan Arnold)*

ONCE UPON A WORLD — Man's ego ruled this earth since history began. This genital bomb expresses the precariousness of our time.

THE CITY — I started collecting small objects for this wall piece thirty-three years ago. It was made in 1960 from a generous view of New York City.

MOTION FANTASY — These parts were all involved in movement in their previous function. I placed them in a fixed position portraying **Motion Fantasy**.

VASE WITH FOUR FLOWERS — An old jack casing became the vase holding a few faucet handles.

DIOGENES ON A UNICYCLE LOOKING FOR AN HONEST MAN ON WALL STREET

MUIR BEACH FIRE ENGINE — The Muir Beach Fire Department in California represents the extraordinary brave and dedicated volunteers in every fire department. Not withstanding the Glenwood unit in Glen Head, Long Island who saved my home from complete disaster.

MUD FLAT GULL — Found object sculpture has a remarkable outside gallery on San Francisco Bay. People gather debris from the mud flats and create extraordinary art forms. It is significant to see these sculptures remain intact and respected year after year. I found the two parts of the gull on this beach.

MEMORIAL TO JEWISH MOTHERS — Who work their fingers to the bone is dedicated to all mothers who laid guilt trips on their children.

KING OF JAZZ — Death of Benny Goodman represented in brass.

SWEET SIXTEEN — To my three daughters and their daughters and _____

DR. ARNOLD STONE — was a fine sculptor, dentist, musician and my friend. *(Collection of Barbara Stone)*

SHAMAN — I Wanted to say "Indian" in a very simple way. An ice chopper, stirrup and cut-off from a steel beam did that for me.

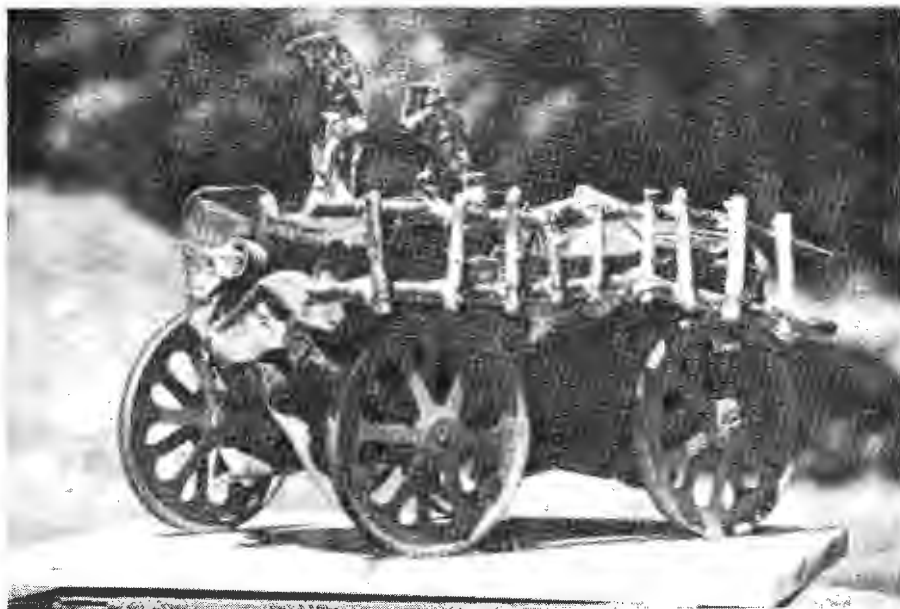
HERON — A shipyard provided the large shears and propeller bending bars. *(Collection of Charles Miller)*

CHRIST — A gasoline tank wrench - steel oval ring and a key wrench. *(Collection of Segil and Gladys Burrows)*

BOY WITH STARS IN HIS EYES — Everyone recognizes the sparkle in a boy's eyes.

TWO BROTHERS ON A FIRE ENGINE — *My Favorite* —

When my younger brother and I were kids we shared a fire engine large enough to hold both of us. I recalled a dream shortly after he died while walking a desolate beach on Long Island. It was about this fire engine. I wanted to keep that memory alive. A five gallon can, pieces of wood, cord and beer cans put together that day on the beach did just that.



INDIAN SCULPTURE — The Indians touch me with their wisdom, and reverence toward nature. The betrayal recognizes our shameful treatment and injustice toward the Indians.



BUCKET OF FLOWERS — My last show in San Francisco contained a coal scuttle filled with flowers made from faucet handles. My studio at that time was on a Zen Buddhist farm where they grew the most beautiful flowers and vegetables. It is fitting to now see this sculpture at the Zen restaurant "**Greens**" in San Francisco.

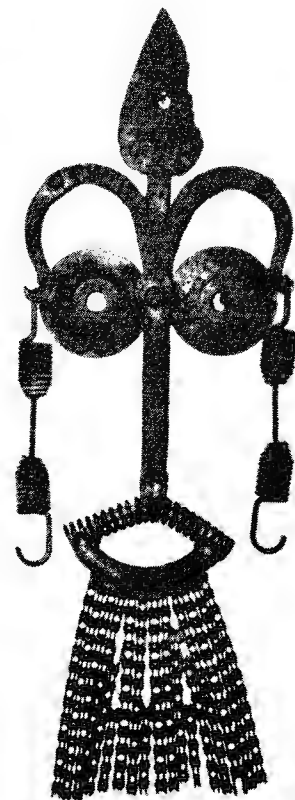


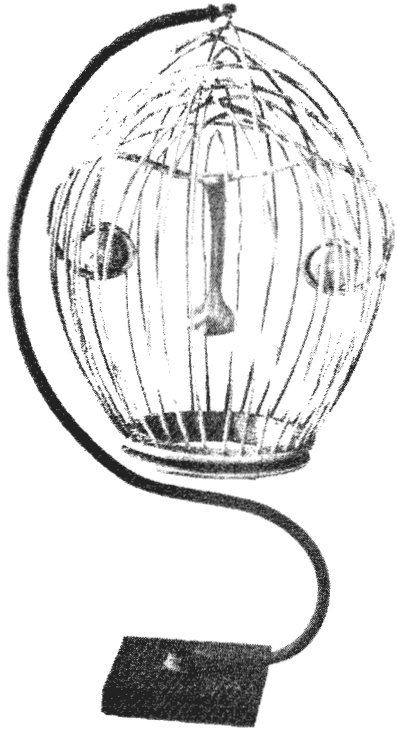
APHRODITE — A fallen limb from a tulip tree became Aphrodite with a little coaxing.



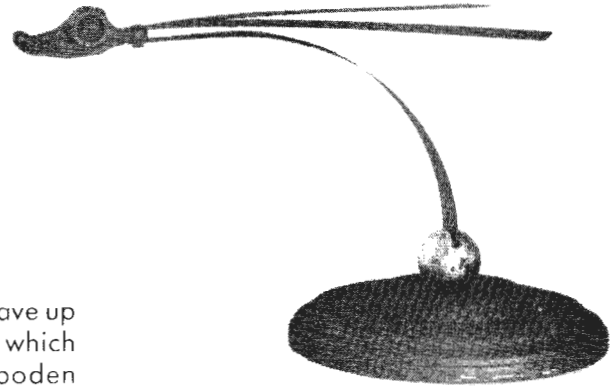
NIGHT LADY — Yesterday's street light shade atop a wooden ball and two copper floats with fireplace screening became the composite for **Night Lady**.

KING DAVID — The ancient gate post that became David's head was found in a flea market in Spain.





CAGED — A bakery gave up this dough mixing part which combined with a wooden ship pattern and it's identification number said "Prisoner."

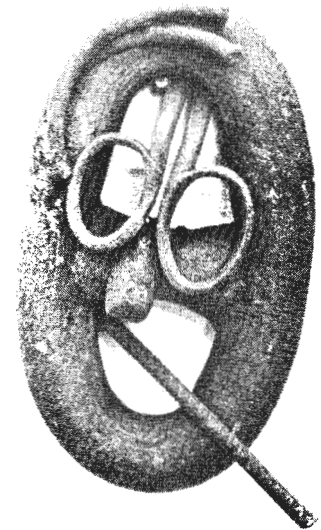


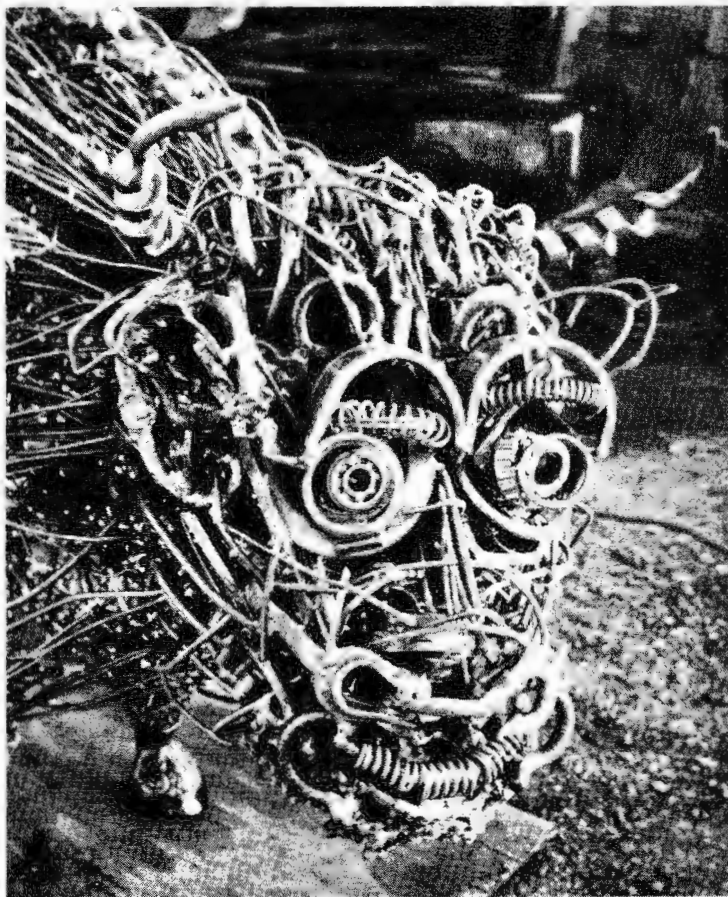
GOONEY BIRD — Flows with the wind.



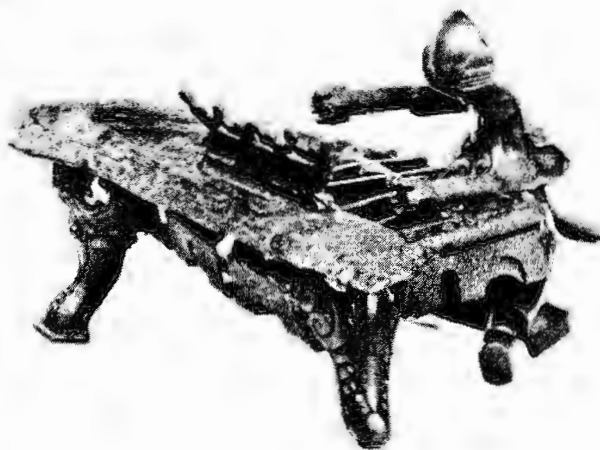
ST. GEORGE SLAYS THE DRAGON — Old tales are kept alive by the written word. I like to go one step further and put into form one of my favorite childhood stories.

F.D.R.
15" x 10"
(Collection of Bernard and
Ellie Tannenbaum)





THE BULL
7' x 4'6"



PIANO PLAYER
(Collection of Basha Rudin)

HERBERT ARNOLD

Invented and designed toys from Industrial Waste Products - Manufactured - Sold Nationally 1939 - 1943.

Art Students League, New York City - studied sculpture - Nathaniel Kaz.

Douglaston Art League, Queens, New York - Awards.

New Jersey Department of Education, Roosevelt School, January 1962. Studio tours.

Long Island University (C.W. Post College) - 5 major pieces - April 1963 and 1964 (L.I. Festival Arts Show).

Friends World College, Mitchel Field and Lloyds Neck, L.I. 1965 through 1968. Taught Sculpture and Development of Mind's Eye.

Annual Creative Personality Series Nassau Community College - lectured and conducted "scrounge" trip - student demonstration and exhibition 1967.

One-Man Show - Firehouse Gallery, Garden City, L.I. - 53 sculptures - sponsored by Nassau Community College, November 1967.

American Jewish Congress Show, "Reflections of Human Dignity," October 1968.

Two-Man Show - Country Art Gallery, Locust Valley, L.I. (Housman-Arnold) March 1969.

Commissioned North Shore School System, March 1969. Sculpture for school Art Museum.

One-Man Show, Planting Fields, Oyster Bay, L.I. - sponsored by Hofstra University May 24, 1969. (Pro Arte Ball.)

Life-size steel bull - New York Hilton lobby, May, 1969. Return Solo Exhibit.

INSEA (International Society for Education Through Art) - Nineteenth Annual Congress (Teachers' College, Columbia University). University art professors of different countries visited studio in Glen Head on world tour of "Artists in their Studios."

Easter Seal Society - Human Resources Show. Steel mushrooms sculptures purchased by Human Resources School, Albertson, L.I. - now part of school's permanent collection.

Appointed to Nassau County Board of Fine Arts Commission in June 1970.

Commission for "therapeutic sculpture," Sagamore Children's Center, Melville, L.I., February 1971 (The Purple People Pooper).

One-Man Show, November 1972, Kulich Gallery, 22 East 67th St., New York City.

One-Man Show, Firehouse Gallery, December 1973. Two sculptures purchased by Nassau Community College for permanent collection.

Lecture-Seminar, Art Teachers Nassau Community College, December 1973. (Found Objects as Art Medium.)

Works in various collections.

Studio and "scrounge trips" - Development of creative potential through Sculpture, Found Objects and Human Communications. Last ten years extensive involvement developing skills combining various human potential movements and found objects as art forms. School-organization tours of studio.

Two-Man Show - "Art Immediacy" - Kaz Tannahashi - Herb Arnold, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, California. November 1982.

At Liberty With Liberty - Bryant Library, Roslyn, New York. July-August 1986. Brass Pentagon Sculpture.

Director's Statement . . .

Herb Arnold's work, popularly called "Found Object Art" or assemblage, has probably been practiced in varying degrees by almost everyone who has an imagination. In its simplest form, it is our tendency to "see something" in an object which was intended for some other specific purpose, but which reminds us of a person, animal, or some other recognizable subject. For Herb Arnold, this ability is elevated to a high art. Discarded objects, nuts, bolts, car springs, tub legs, books and the like are positioned and welded together to produce new objects, a sculpture. For Arnold, this transformation is an act of love. It is not possible to view the work of Herb Arnold and not become involved with it. For many, their first response will usually be a smile — for Arnold's work has a good deal of humor to it. Beyond that, one has to respond to the inventiveness and the unique vision which enables him to select and organize the cast-off forms of our industrial civilization into meaningful sculptural form.

Charles Reiss



LITTLE BOY WITH STARS IN HIS EYES
(Collection of Ruth Schultz)