

**WEATHER**

Rain showers, variable clouds tonight, lows near 52. Partly cloudy Tuesday, page 2.

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**PEOPLE**  
Wood and clay sculpture exhibit at Brand Galleries through Feb. 5. Page 5.

**Brand Gallery hosts meaningful, impressive sculpture exhibit**

By WANDA OWEN  
People Section Editor

Symbols, imagination and intuition join to make the sculpture of Los Angeles artist, Karin Swildens not only a thing of beauty, but a joy and inspiration to behold.

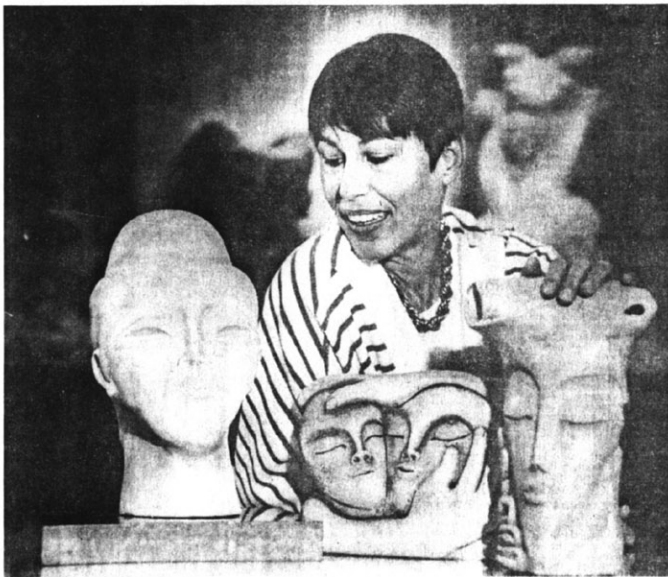
Works of the artist are on display at Brand Library through Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Ms. Swildens was born in Holland, raised in Morocco, studied at 'Les Arts Decoratifs' in Paris and has spent most of her married life in France. She and her husband, a French film producer, are parents of three children.

In her own family she is one of four children and her father, still living in Holland, is a renowned artist.

After her studies she worked at the restoration of paintings at Le Louvre Museum, illustrated French children's magazines, designed scarves for Hermes, and was author, editor and illustrator of a book for children, "Poutou et Pitchou" published by Dessain et Tola.

She has always been an artist, drawing and painting, but at



Staff photos by SAL BROMBERGER

Legends, love and tenderness are the basis of her inspiration, she says, adding "I use archetypal and personal symbols to convey my profound respect for life."

the loss of her "Mammy," she says she felt she needed to create something that she could touch, feel and smell — something whole. Following through on this she began to sculpt in wood because, she says, it is always soft, never cold and always feels alive.

Later she tired of the length of time it took to produce a piece of wood sculpture and turned to clay. "I am so glad I found clay," she says, adding, "I find great joy in working with it and it fills a basic need in me in producing my work."

Her work is astonishingly beautiful, especially so when she has the time to tell you about the symbolic nature of it. One piece in particular, "Serenity" is especially appealing. It is sculpted of clay and symbolically it has the features of a man in meditation on one side and a woman on the other. The head of the woman is sculpted without eyes.

Asked about this she said that women have an intuitive sense of sight, this she implies in the piece. The head, shared by both male and female, because we embody both, is open and in a scroll, depicting the open mind. The tiny face of a child can be seen on the side and a hand, denoting the sense of touch and protection, silhouettes one side of the face. At the bottom of the piece there is a bird which denotes the spiritual quality and a serpent, which Ms Swildens says, is symbolic of vitality.

The vivacious brunette has 26 pieces of sculpture on

display in cases at Brand and two paintings under class in the foyer.

It is interesting that beside the Serenity sculpture, there is a smaller piece which she has titled "Toward Serenity." When asked about this she explains that this piece, although similar, has the face in meditation, but with a slight smile on the lips.

"When serenity is really reached there would be total non-expression, total witness," she says.

The artist says that when she first began sculpting she was timid about showing anyone her work. "I felt it was so much a part of me. It was almost like appearing naked, like I was showing a part of myself that no one but I knew or

understood," she says.

A friend of her father's introduced her to the writings of Carl Jung and this awakened in her the meanings and inspirations of symbols and mythology.

"I was really awakened by it," she says. "It was like I had known all of these things before, but now I was able to express them in a way that I could understand and perceive them. A new world was opening to me."

That new world is bringing honors and acclaim to the artist. There is a story to each and every piece of her work and it all ties in with mythology and concepts of great minds of the Eastern and Western worlds.

The artist uses the head of the ram in many of her works.

She explains that the ram in mythology denoted strength, peace and protection. Birth, death (which she says is an extension of life) and many of the emotions of humanity are expressed in her work on display at Brand.

Legends, love and tenderness are the basis of her inspiration, she says, adding "I use archetypal and personal symbols to convey my profound respect for life."

Gallery hours are from noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The art center is closed on Sundays and Mondays. The exhibit is open to the public free of charge.



Karin Swildens' wood and clay sculpture is being exhibited at Brand Galleries through Saturday, Feb. 5. Ms. Swildens to the left is pictured with "Offsprings," "Tenderness" and "Serenity," which are among the 26 pieces being shown. Above, "La Douce," "Two in One," and "Hermes." The artist delves deep into mythology and mysticism for her inspiration.