

# LIFE

### INSIDE TODAY

■ **Obit:** Actor Jonathan Harris, Dr. Smith of "Lost in Space," dies. **2D**  
■ **Tonight's Prime Time:** Election coverage takes over the networks tonight. After that's over, tune into Comedy Central for a spoof. **3D**



### COMING WEDNESDAY

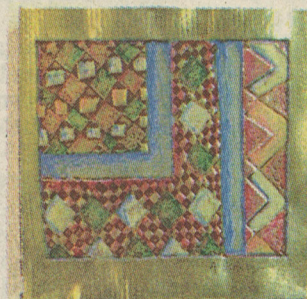
■ **Eating:** Spaghetti carbonara with its grated Romano and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheeses, egg and bacon deserves another chance.

SECTION  
**D**

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Tuesday, November 5, 2002

# A sense of place



"Venetian Tiles III"

Travel and imagination have fed the work of this local artist whose studio sits next to Mill Creek.

BY RON COWAN  
Statesman Journal

Ann M. Kresge of Salem has performed wizardry in her art that even Harry Potter might envy.

She's made books that fly and dance and mixed-media art that evokes exotic worlds that we all would like to know.

Kresge — who is featured in the holiday shows at Mary Lou Zeek Gallery and Bush Barn Art Center this fall and has a show at Silverton's Silver Creek Gallery in February — is a printmaker who expanded into books and other forms of art.

She also is a world traveler who brings the world to her art.

Kresge moved to Salem two years ago from High Falls, N.Y., with her husband, Micheal Nord, who teaches jazz studies and music technology at Willamette University.

She boasts a resume that is impressive, to say the least, including books in the collections of museums including the Victoria and Albert in London and the Guggenheim in New York.

Kresge's limited edition artists' books and prints have been exhibited internationally

SEE ARTIST / 8D



**MIXED MEDIA:** Ann Kresge (above) shows her book "Shadow Play" inside her studio. "Figure I" (right) hangs inside her Salem home.



## ARTIST

CONTINUED FROM 1D

and are in several libraries, universities and private collections.

While the books often are collaborations with writers, poets and storytellers, her personal work also is multilayered and textured, incorporating not just handmade papers but also images gleaned from her restless imagination and travel.

Kresge has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, Europe, India and the United States.

"Travel and place certainly influence my work," she said. "I'm always trying to explore new methods and materials."

Through printmaking, etching, lithography, relief and serigraphy, techniques often combined in a single work; Kresge explores that world in art.

Although beginning as a printmaker, her interests led her to narration and text.

Kresge's book "Shadow Play," inspired by Indonesian shadow puppets, opens up to form a theater or theatrical backdrop, with real working puppets.

"It was influenced by tradition; I wanted to take it to a new place."

## Kresge art

HOLIDAY SHOW, MARY LOU ZEEK GALLERY

**WHEN:** Today through Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays; opening reception 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday

**WHERE:** 335 State St., Salem

**COST:** Free

**CALL:** (503) 581-3225

"A WINTER'S TALE," BUSH BARN ART CENTER HOLIDAY SHOW

**WHEN:** Nov. 17-Dec. 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays; opening gala 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 16

**WHERE:** Bush Barn Art Center, 600 Mission St. SE, Salem

**COST:** Free; opening gala is \$10 individuals, \$18 a couple.

**CALL:** (503) 581-2228

The book "Air Born," a collaboration with a poet and a kitemaker, literally can take flight: The pages are kites. The project was inspired by visits to China and Japan.

Another art book, "Journey Tales: A Collection of Women's Stories," features imagery inspired by stories.

Kresge, who has worked in theater and opera, will have another major collaboration in spring of 2004, with the ArtLife Latino Americano's "Crossing Borders" project, a multimedia collaboration with international musicians in Mexico City.

Now, after living in a more urban, worldly part of the United States, she is absorbing a quieter range of influences living along Mill Creek, teaching art two days a week at Abiqua School and occasionally at Salem Art Association.

She's also minding her standard poodle, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and a theatrically minded daughter, Chloe Nord, 11, who is in the cast of the upcoming Pentacle Theatre musical "Metropolis."

Her most recent work, the Mill Creek series, is about a place much closer to her and us, integrating wood and metal but still designs that harken to a larger world beyond the borders of Salem.

"Thematically, I'm very interested in place," Kresge said.

"It's all coming together, present and past."

There are wooden trellises, designs that embrace the idea of neighborhood.

Predictably, exploration still is a theme in these works, which use the techniques of woodburning and treating metal as prints.

"I'm literally running prints through the press that are metal," she said.

Among Kresge's other recent pieces are "Venetian Tiles," hand-painted metal prints mounted on small wood squares, and the Santa

Fe, N.M., series, cast paper with archaeological forms.

Native American forms turn up in her "Ladder" monotypes, and the "Badlands" series recalls the American landscape in etchings and collographs.

"I would say I really enjoy more the ancient forms of culture," she said.

"A lot of people have found it has a spiritual context. I'm not aware of that.

"People will see things in them; they're experimental."

Kresge is nonetheless very much in the present with an eye on the future.

"I'm going to explore video," she said.

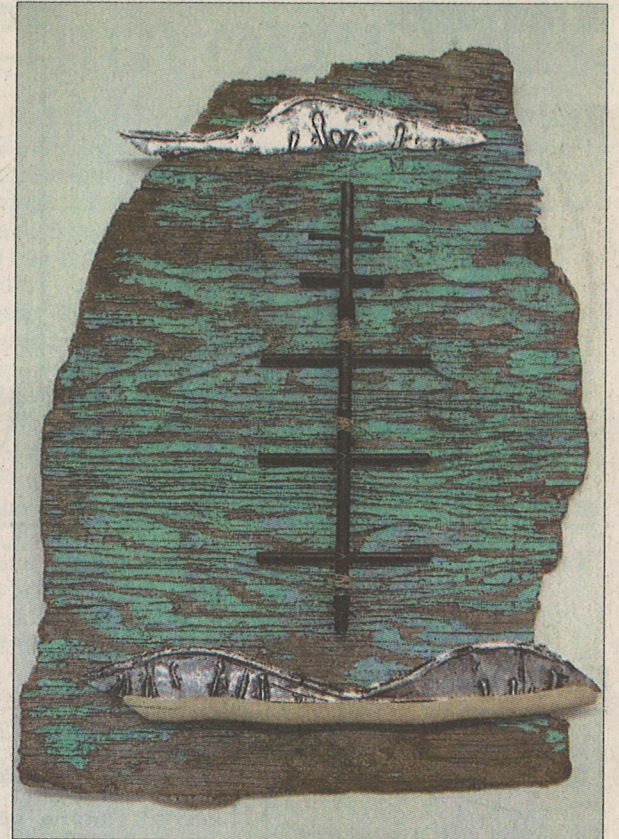
For such a restless creative soul, Salem might seem a major adjustment, and Kresge said she has missed the artistic infrastructure she once took for granted in the New York area.

But there are valuable tradeoffs.

"It's been a great life quality change for us," Kresge said. "We've always been all over the map.

"I'm having to be more ingenious in things I can do without a great deal of media resources in the area, which I had in New York."

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FRANCESCA PEREZ / Statesman Journal

**INSPIRED ART:** Ann Kresge has this piece, "Olympic Peninsula, Ozette," inside her studio at her Salem home. She said she was inspired by Indian rock carvings.