

Napa College  
2277 Napa-Vallejo Hwy  
Napa, CA 94558

KADAR, SHARI 1975

\$25,000 Art Works

# To Grace Downtown

NAPA, Calif.

Within a short time downtown Napa's redevelopment area will be graced with an immigrant family, a "great eye," a defiant teenager, a cat washing and a porcelain cube.

Relying on the taste of an independent panel of judges, the Napa Community Redevelopment Agency approved five works of art valued at \$25,000 to beautify the mall and adjacent areas.

Napa artist Shari Kadar of 155 Jefferson St. was commissioned to produce a \$14,000 six-foot high bronze family grouping called "The Immigrants," which will be located just north of the clock tower.

The largest of the five selections, "The Immigrants" is "offered in tribute to the thousands of families who have come from all over the world to settle in the Napa Valley, who have brought with them skills, courage and dreams which have helped fulfill the promises of their new homeland," according to Mrs. Kadar's description of her work.

Although more than half of the 124 entries in the works of art competition were from artists outside the county, as well as outside the state, three of the five works winners are by Napa artists, including two by Mrs. Kadar. The artists' identities were not known to the judges until last night.

Oakland sculptor Peter Boiger will produce a \$5,000 abstract work titled "The Great Eye" for placement beside the light tower near the east entrance to Mervyn's. Made out of stone, the work will stand four and one-half feet high.

A three-foot marble sculpture titled "Cat Washing" will be located on a pedestal near the south entrance to Mervyn's at the northwest corner of the mall. The work will be produced in Georgia or Vermont marble by Napan Norma J. Anderson of 460 Seminary St.

Across First Street between Round Table Pizza and

Carithers will be an untitled two-foot cube, done in bright porcelain colors on steel and bronze by Berkeley artist Tom Martin Browne.

For the west end of First Street beside the Wells Fargo Bank the agency selected a three-foot high sculpture of "The Teenager," cast in stone representing a youth with "hands in pocket, feet planted in defiance," who "waits and watches as the world goes by."

"This is a pretty wide range of art work up there — some of it fairly conventional, some of it, according to local experience, rather unconventional," noted agency member James V. Jones, who was on the selection panel with attorney David Kelly, merchant Leonard Rothman and Napa College art teacher Chris Vaaler.

The panel was able to reach a unanimous selection in all but one of the five categories. Choosing among three finalists, the agency voted by secret ballot and unanimously selected "Cat Washing" over "The Bud" and "The Great Pyramid No. 6."

Agency Executive Director Richard Oliver noted the judges were asked to consider durability when evaluating the works. It is expected children will climb over many of the sculptures, which will also be vulnerable to vandalism attempts.

Because the major work will be placed so near the controversial clock tower, Oliver said the judges were urged not to select anything "too extreme or abstract" for that one site.

Jones said "The Immigrants" was an "abstractly rendered, but quite recognizable family group." The composition shows four undetailed human forms, generally suggesting parents and their two children.

The artist noted in her description of the work that the mother has her head partially turned behind her, representing a look to "ties not easily broken."

The cube received the most agency comment, particularly from Mayor Ralph Bolin who suggested that when the artist begins to drip colors he should select from a bright palette. The model before the judges "looks kind of dull to me," he said.

"I hope I like the cube better than I think I'm going to like it," said Bolin before his affirmative vote. "The cube seems to be altogether different and I guess I'll have to get used to it."

Referring to another abstract winner, Bolin said, "I can't tell what the subject of 'Eye' is but I sure like it."

"Cat Washing" will perhaps have the most exposure of any of the works, noted Jones. For this reason, he said the winning entry was a good choice since it is identifiably a cat, no one will find it offensive, yet it has the "opportunity to open minds of people who consider art just portraits or landscapes."

Oliver predicted some of the winners might be completed and in place by mid-autumn. Judging in most cases was done using photographs of models.

In other action, the agency approved spending \$8,700 in tax increment funds for street trees beside the new community services building at the corner of First and Seminary streets. The former supermarket will contain city departments when remodeling is completed at the end of the year.

Agency Member Bill Chew also read into the record a column from the San Rafael Independent Journal which looked at redevelopment programs in Napa, Vallejo and Santa Rosa, and found the Napa model most worth emulating.

"But the main thrust of the Napa effort — concentrating on revitalizing what is already here, building on existing strength — would seem to make sense for San Rafael," the column by editor Jack Craemer concluded.

