Hero pins and pots
by George Kent Erickson

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF APPLIED ART
Montana State University
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Abstract:
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Approved:

Chairperson, Graduate Committee

Head, Major Department

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

As a jeweler-metalsmith and artist, I feel it is necessary to continually widen the base from which I look at and comment on the world. By taking different approaches in my work, I am able to develop varied symbols with which to relate my thoughts.

My pins reflect my relationship to materials and to the people for whom they were designed. I see my pins as small, bright objects which convey sometimes a humorous and sometimes a formal or serious message. The hero pins are meant to be caricatures of specific people, with the awarding of the pins an important part of the statement. In my other pins, the emphasis is on materials rather than humor.

The bracelets and rings again exemplify my enjoyment of bright, flashy materials. They relate to how I like to see people dress.

The seed pod forms represent a body of work that I view as experimental. My primary purpose was to deal with form, using a single theme, the seed pod, and to develop my understanding of form.
SLIDES

1. Necklace, deer antler and sterling, 1974
2. Detail of #1
3. Raised container, brass and copper, 11" h., 1975
4. Raised container, copper, 10" h., 1976
5. Sterling goblets and centerpiece, raised and formed, 8" h., 1976
6. Detail of #5
7. Bracelet, sterling, paua shell inlay, 1975
8. Moose skull bracelet, sterling, tiger-eye, 1975
9. Wax extruder, brass, bronze and stainless steel, 9" long, 1975
10. Bobber, sterling, amazonite, petrified wood, abalone and paua shell inlays, 1½" diam., 1975
11. Butterfly pin, sterling, 14 kt. gold and petrified wood (wing pattern and texture electroformed copper with gold plate), 1½" wide, 1975
12. Backview of #11
13. Hero pin #1, brass, peacock feather and paua shell, 2" h., 1975
14. Hero pin #2, brass, peacock feather and paua shell inlay, 2¾" h., 1975
15. Hero pin #3, brass, copper, silicone rubber and paua shell inlay, 2½" h., 1975
16. Out-and-in pin, sterling, brass, copper, mokum metal, paua shell inlay, 2½" h., 1976
17. Mr. Entrepreneur pin, sterling, copper, brass and paua shell inlay, 2½" w., 1976
18. Raised container, bronze and copper, 6½" h., 1976
19. Ring, 14 kt. gold, turquoise, and cornelian agate, 1974
20. Game ring "for the secretary with nothing left to do", 14 kt. gold, sterling inlay, pearl and paua shell, 1976
UNIVERSAL HERO