



Thursday, October 17, 2002

## Patriotism, political satire featured in exhibit

Patriotism and political satire meet at the "No Joy in Mudville" exhibition by Eric Mesko at **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** (MBAG).

The exhibition, which opens, Friday, Oct. 18, and runs through Nov. 17, features two large-scale installations — a B2 bomber and a scale model of a traditional 19th century ballpark.

"It's quite extraordinary," said Dick Goody, director of Meadow Brook Art Gallery. "The baseball theme is a meditation on Americana and a reflection of the vanished American dream. The B2 bomber underscores the paradox of peace encapsulated in the quotation by Vegetius, 'Let him who desires peace prepare for war.'"

Mesko, a Detroit native, has been an artist for 20 years. He also was a Marine.

"Mesko produces hilarious graphic art and biting political satire," Goody said.

An example of this humor is found in a large sculpture called "Al Qaeda" — a 14-foot long, seven-foot high creature with a huge dangerous mouth, dripping with red paint.

The title of the show, "No Joy in Mudville," comes from the poem, "Casey at Bat."

"Casey plays for the Mudville Nine and all hopes are on him. But the hero can't save the world every time. Casey strikes out," Mesko said. "We have to face our future head on and accept our tasks with determination. Just read the 'New York Times' front page for a week, the following week's columns will be worse. Before Al Qaeda is totally defeated another daemon will take its place. There is no closure - no joy in Mudville."

Goody chose the exhibition because it fits with MBAG's goal to share contemporary Michigan visual art.

"The exposure artists receive at **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** is marvelous for the artist and for the cultural welfare of Detroit," Goody said. "Because of exhibition catalogues, we're helping Detroit artists to move their careers into the national spotlight. It also helps the community become aware of the cultural impact of OU."

Admission to MBAG is free. The gallery, located in 208 Wilson Hall across the hall from the Meadow Brook Theatre entrance, is open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The gallery also is open evenings during Meadow Brook Theatre performances.

### SUMMARY

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