

CONCERNING THIS ISSUE

RICK GOLT PHOTO

Are we out of step with the times to devote an entire issue of a journal of general education to the theme of "Art in Hawaii?" Wouldn't a topic more directly-related to the "back-to-basics" emphasis be more in keeping with contemporary interests?

I think not! and two reasons come to mind: First, I side with David Riesman, who argues—in his "Constraint and Variety in American Education"—for the "counter-cyclical" role of education, a role which includes themes counter to the course of education in vogue at any given time. Second, and more profound, I consider the arts and the other humanities as basics in education. These subjects are basic to human imagery; they are the educational tools we use to relate the world of words, metaphors, and ideas to the world of objects and creative processes.

In this issue, we have an excellent set of articles on the regional art of Hawaii which focuses on the contribution of art and artists to our community. I heartily congratulate the authors and editors who are bringing it to you.

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