



Zisla Art Scholarship Started

BY DINA HARRIS

With a sparkle in his eye and a wry sense of humor, it is easy to see how Harold Zisla has influenced generations of art students. His teaching style is legendary at IU South Bend. Known for his unique, experimental artistic style, Professor Emeritus Zisla has had numerous one-man exhibitions of his work. His paintings are included in many group, public, and private collections throughout the country. Now, a scholarship has been established in his name.

Zisla was a professor of fine arts at IU South Bend from 1966 through 1989. He was the first chairman of the Fine Arts Department. During his tenure, he taught a variety of studio, art history, and art appreciation courses. Zisla was also involved in many community organizations, giving more than 140 lectures and demonstrations to groups, museums, and universities. He retired from IU South Bend 18 years ago and continues to pursue his love of painting.

Zisla has received numerous academic, civic, and cultural awards. Among them are the Mayor's Art Award for cultural contributions in South Bend; South Bend Alumni Association's Community Hall of Fame inductee; Midwest Art Fellowship Award; the first Eldon Lundquist Faculty Fellow, IU South Bend; the Sagamore of the Wabash Governor's Award; and the All University Teaching Award, IU South Bend.

Before coming to IU South Bend, Zisla was the director of the South Bend Art Center from 1957 to 1966. Zisla helped to position the Art Center as an important Michiana cultural center. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Zisla served in the U.S. Navy. He completed his undergraduate work in art education and earned a master's degree in art history, both from Case Western University, Cleveland. Zisla also received a diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Zisla has had a lifelong love of and commitment to art. Anthony Droege, professor and area coordinator of Visual Arts, IU South Bend, explains that Zisla was one of his most significant teachers. "He opened up a whole new world for me. He is a light post, sharing what a commitment to this business of art is and what it means. It is a way of living, learning and getting wise. Harold has never wavered from the path. He was an inspiring teacher to many students. He had great enthusiasm for teaching and he loved it. He found that teaching was a calling, rather than a job."

To honor Zisla, long-time friends Doug and Marlene Hunt established the Harold Zisla Art Scholarship. For information concerning the scholarship, contact Anne McGraw at (574) 520-4801.