

# Christ-Janer Expresses Ideal; To Construct an Art Center

By JUDY HARKISON

Albert Christ-Janer, calling himself a "monomaniac," says that he has "a constant love for one ideal—to build an art center."

Christ-Janer was invited to the University just for this purpose by former President Milton S. Eisenhower. The artist-author-professor became director of the School of the Arts last February.

His wife, Virginia, believes that "more presidents fall beneath him than anyone else could probably know."

Before coming to the University, Christ-Janer was invited to establish art schools at both the University of Chicago by President Robert Hutchins and New York University by President Henry Heald. Soon after he arrived at each school, the president resigned in order to work with the Ford Foundation.

### 'Not Artistic,' Wife Says

When asked if she were an artist also, Mrs. Christ-Janer replied, "one in the family is enough."

Her husband says, however, that she "would give him an inferiority complex in the kitchen" although he claims to make "a mean ice cream cone."

He insists that the secret of her cooking success came when she learned to read while teaching literature at Stephens College. "She has a following instinct with a touch of personal genius added," he says.

The Christ-Janers moved into their modern, split-level home, designed by William Hajjar, professor of architecture, in September. The walls contain many of the art director's own paintings, some of which are now on exhibition in the Hetzel Union Building.

### First Interest Is Painting

Christ-Janer's main aspiration, he says, is to paint.

"Painting is a process of evolution," he believes. "When I was young I was more concerned with representation of nature. Now nature inspires me, but I don't copy it."

"Painting is not like cooking," he continued. "You can't arrive at art with a recipe."

The University arts director will be one of 20 artists exhibiting work in January at the Staten Island museum, celebrating the 300th anniversary of the island.

The exhibition in which he was proudest to participate, Christ-Janer says, was the 1955 International Water Color Exhibition in the Brooklyn Museum. Paintings were shown by 90 artists from each of the following countries—America, France, Japan, Italy and England.

### Author of Four Books

Christ-Janer has also written four books on painting, 19th century history of American art and "one about the guy who invented the short bladed table knife."

He is now co-editing a new American hymnal and has commissioned the work of outstanding American composers and poets.

As director of the School of the Arts, Christ-Janer says that there are things he hopes to accomplish—1) establish a concert-lecture forum, 2) build an art center, and 3) constantly improve the curriculum and staff of the School of the Arts.

"Students are first," he believes. "My goal is to invite the best students to the University and to serve them."



—Daily Collegian Photo by Dave Bavar

ON A QUIET SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Dr. Albert Christ-Janer, director of the School of the Arts, and his wife, Virginia, glance over an art publication in their modern, split-level home.



ALBERT CHRIST-JANER, artist, author and professor, says that painting is his fondest interest. Here he is at work in the Temporary Union Building, the present campus art center.

### Hec Societies to Meet

Phi Upsilon Omicron, home economics service society, will meet with Omicron Nu, home economics honorary society, at 6:45 tonight in the Home Economics Living Center.

Dr. Dorothy Houghton, professor of home economics, will conduct a panel discussion.

### Grad Exam Applications

Applications and information for Graduate Record Examinations are available in 117 Buckhout. The examination will be given Jan. 19 at the University.

All applications must be received by Jan. 4 at Education Testing Service, 20 Nassau St., Princeton, N.J.

### Alumni Will Hold Dance in Reading

The Berks County Alumni Club will hold its annual Penn State Dance at 10 p.m. Dec. 26 in the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Reading. Bud Rader's orchestra will play for the dance.

Admission is \$6 a couple. Proceeds will go to the Levi Lamb Scholarship Fund.

University students, alumnae, and guests may attend. Reservations may be made by notifying Edward Hintz at Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

### Baer Elected to Office

Ernie Baer, who was named this summer to succeed Nick Thiel as coach of the Penn State lacrosse team, was elected secretary-treasurer of the Lacrosse Coaches Association of America last weekend.

### Prof on Safety Council

Joseph Intorre, associate in charge of driver testing in the Institute of Public Safety, has been named to the education committee of the newly-formed Governor's Traffic Safety Council. The council is directed by Dr. Amos E. Neyhart, administrative head of the institute.

## CLASSIFIEDS

ADS MUST BE IN BY 11:00 a.m. THE PRECEDING DAY  
RATES—17 words or less:  
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SORORITY PIN, Zeta Tau Alpha, white gold pin with guard and officer's key. Finder call 276 Simmons.

SORORITY PIN and Fraternity Pin, Alpha Chi Omega and Kappa Delta Rho. Call Grange 896, Kathy Stroup.

TOPCOAT, grey suburban, near Engineering Library; David Manro's name inside collar. Call ext. 783.

ALLIGATOR RAINCOAT with torn pocket outside 125 Sparks on Friday. Call John Daney, ext. 287.

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