

# the daily Collegian arts

Porter sculpture show

## Materials dominate work

By JULIE SWINDELL  
Collegian Staff Writer

Art is forever being misunderstood, because it simply can't be understood. It is more of a life-long, self-enriching process.

"If I can get nothing else across, I want to say that art is not a superficial thing. I don't understand my own work and I probably never will." Stephen Porter, assistant professor of art and sculptor at the University, said.

"Recent Work by Stephen Porter" is on exhibit through Oct. 31 in the Museum of Art from noon to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays. Among the sculptures shown are pieces done in aluminum, stainless steel, painted fiberglass, plexiglass, cast bronze, spruce, oak, mahogany, walnut and cherry.

"I enjoy working with materials very much," Porter said, "I believe that the material is the most dominating feature in my work." Porter said that he enjoys working with wood most and that he has cut his own trees down in Maine for material. "Wood is just a very nice feeling," he said.

Porter claims to be moderately influenced by Constantin Brancusi, the notable Rumanian sculptor of the 20's and 30's who was considered extremely modern for his day. Like Brancusi, Porter's works have a definite series and uniformity to them. Symbols and symbolism are absent, leaving the viewer with freedom rather than restriction. Porter, much like Brancusi, works well in the sculpture of a specific object. We are given an absolute sense of reality.

This idea is brought out best in Porter's various wooden posts and columns. "In these I deal with primary geometric forms such as spheres and cylinders and create from there," Porter said. "My work is totally my own, and if you can see this then you have made an effort into understanding what art



Stephen Porter poses with work. Porter's sculpture show is on display at the Museum of Art.

Porter's exhibit has previously been seen in five solo presentations in New York City, as well as in Ithaca, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., New Orleans, La. and Washington D.C. His work has also been viewed in many group showings.

Porter studied at Cornell

University, Colorado College and Yale University. He taught at Silvermine College of Art and Cornell before his appointment at the University in 1973.

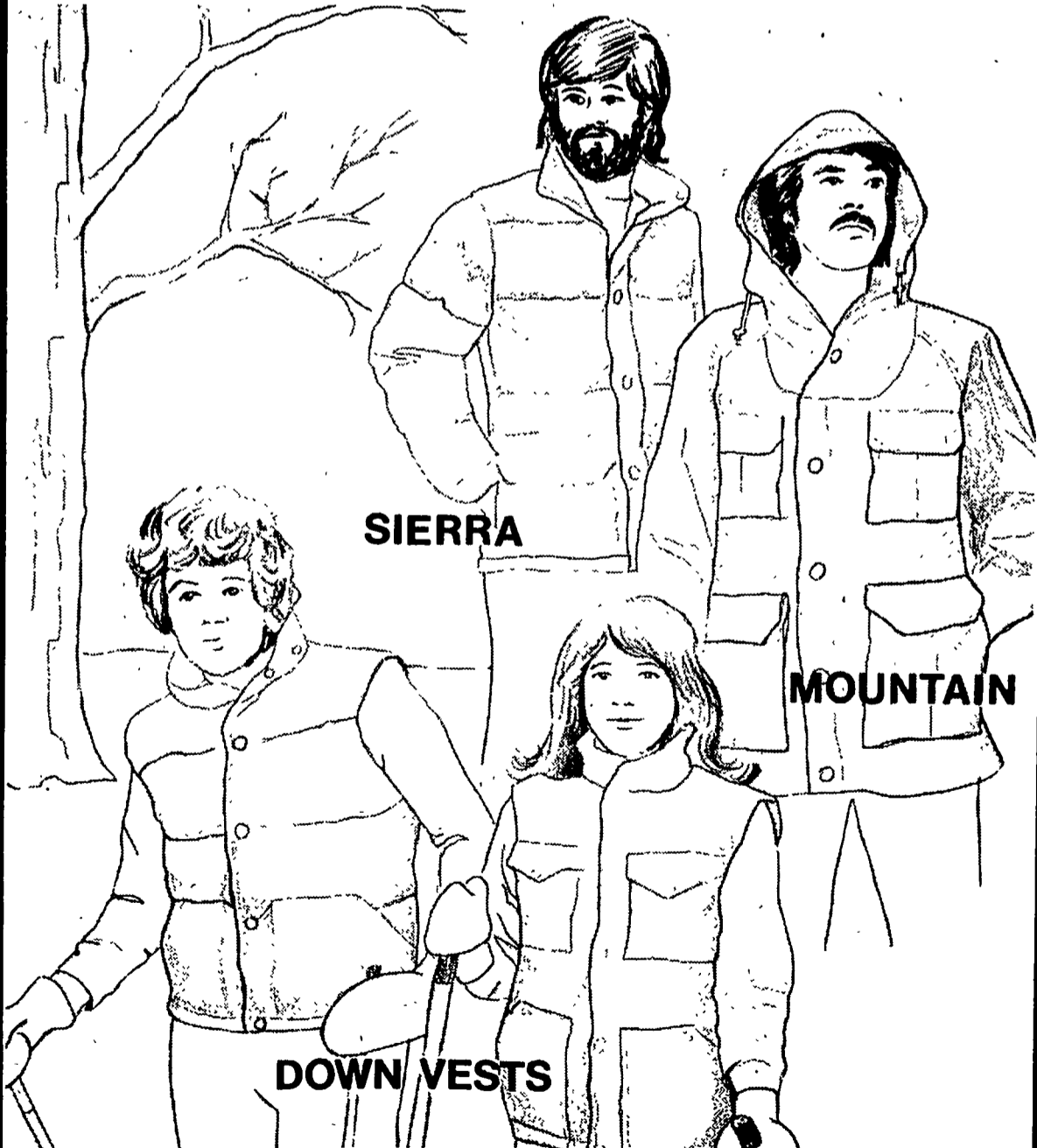
"You can ask what the stone sculpture of the Nittany Lion means and you can get

an answer," Porter said. "It actually stands for something — whether it be the football team, spirit or whatever. But mine is more than that. You can't just look at it and know."

Art for art's sake. Never fully understood, yet loved just the same.

Photo by Sally Hunter

### THE NORTH FACE The Ultimate in Cold Weather Gear

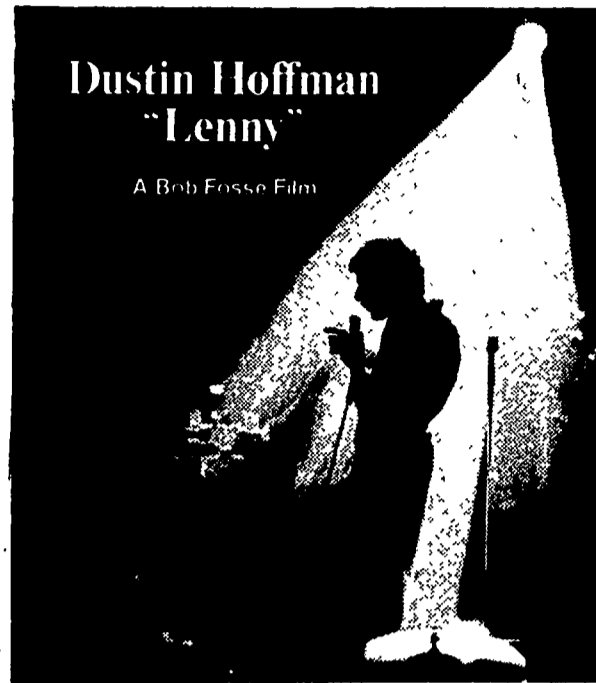


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## ARHS MOVIE TIMETABLE

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Maria Schneider  
Antonioni's  
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