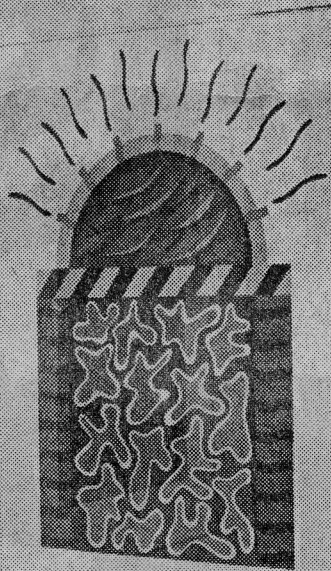
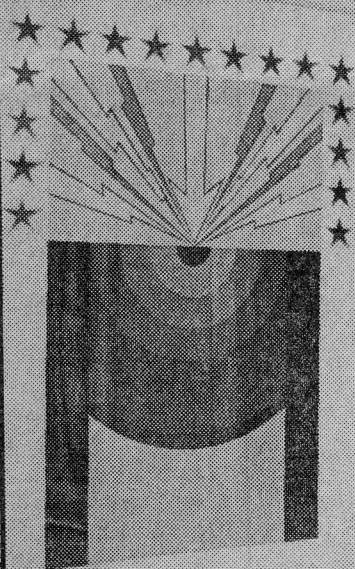


Jukebox turns music in to art



by MELINDA KNOX

For most people jukeboxes are for playing music, but to Geelong artist, David Turner, they are a source of color and imagination.

David's most recent exhibition of silkscreen prints, titled "Jukeboxes" is an explosion of color depicting his image of these music machines.

The exhibition has attracted plenty of attention while on show in the Geelong Performing Arts Centre foyer.

With titles such as "Tropical Juke" and "Brainspace Juke", the inspiration for the prints came from everything from restaurants to television shows.

"The prints, with the dynamic colors, mostly represent jukeboxes from the 1960s era, when jukeboxes were machines of vibrant electric and neon lights," David said.

The blaring music is also represented by "electric" colors in the form of stars, lightning bolts and streams.

David Turner is the head of the creative studies programme at the Gordon Technical College.

He has been teaching art since 1962, but has concentrated on silkscreen prints only in the past five years.

"Depending on the number of colors in the print, the paper may go through a printing process up to 10 times," he said.

Prior to becoming involved in silkscreen printing, David spent many years producing six feet by eight feet gouche works, which are handpainted water color paintings involving great detail.

"These paintings involve a lot of work and just about drove me crazy at one stage," he said.

Since first becoming involved in screen printing, David has produced five exhibitions, including "Jukeboxes". The other four were "Sportscars", "Cigars", "Cigarettes", and

ABOVE: Three of David's silkscreen prints, including "Brainspace Juke"
BELOW: David is pictured with one of his prints.



American influence is obvious

By Pamela Ashcroft

Pop art, the movement that shook the art world in the early 60s, perpetuated and amplified globally the 'American way of life'.

In an interview with Artnews in 1963, Robert Indiana predicted: "The pattern will not be far from coke, the car, the hamburger, the jukebox, it is the American myth, for this is the best of all possible worlds".

The sobriquet 'pop' was adopted universally for an art that initiated the methods, styles and themes of popular culture and mass media.

By the mid-60s, Lichtenstein's comics, Oldenburg's hamburgers, Rosenquist's cars and Warhol's Campbell's soup cans had become almost as familiar as the actual products.

Pop was instant art and drew directly from the commercially abundant every day world.

Images were second hand from newspapers, magazines, television and other advertisements and the style owed much to the brash simplification and eye catching color of commercial art and culled its techniques from industrial processes.

The use of images from the popular representation of things was integral to the art of pop.

Although derivative rather than initiative of popular imagery, the silk screen prints of David Turner (on exhibition at the Geelong Performing Arts Centre) thematically and stylistically owe their influence to the pop era.

Focusing attention on the jukebox, Turner has produced a series reflecting the decorative styles which characterised the various models.

The jukebox, synonymous with American sub-culture and the mass distribution of popular music was festooned with all the garish trappings of the commercial advertising industry.

Resembling in its cascades of flashing lights the phosphorescent mask of a tribal witch doctor the visual display reflected design elements directly associated with art deco, characterised by geometric shapes, stylised natural forms and symmetrical utilitarian designs adapted to mass production.

Turner, using hand cut litho stencils, has taken advantage of the suitability of the silk screen process to produce hard edge, stylised geometric patterns.

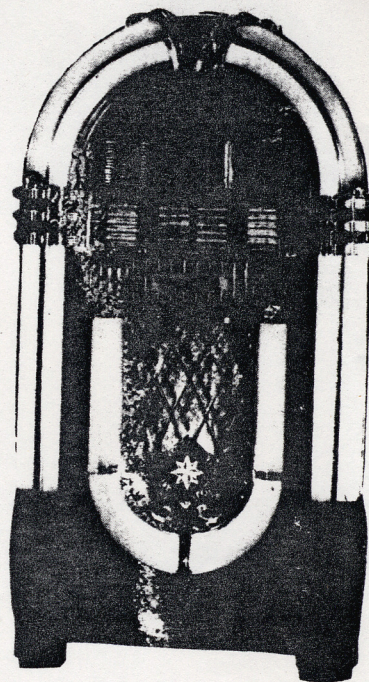
"Rockola", derived from an early Wurlitzer machine, distinctly resembles the actual model as does "Juke 950", the form and motifs are stylistically faithful to the original designs.

The balance however are fictitious; they are variations on the theme which employ formal elements from authentic models.

"King of Juke" is a graphic witticism depicting a coronet and the heraldic "Bend Sinister" which proclaims illegitimacy and the visual punning in "Hard Rain" and "Play it Loud" gently send up the amusement and entertainment industries.

The organisation of contrasting and complementary color schemes is used to effect the vulgar and garish formulations of commercial art boldly accentuating the designs.

Turner's skill as a silk screen print maker is in this current series reaffirmed, but almost a quarter of a century has passed since the out-break of pop art and the shock waves of the sixties have dissipated, rendering its practice today a visual essay on an exhausted style.



YOU ARE INVITED TO
AN EXHIBITION OF NEW
SCREEN PRINTS BY
DAVID TURNER
ENTITLED

JUKEBOXES

AT THE
**GEELONG PERFORMING
ARTS CENTRE**

OPENING 7-0pm MARCH 1st