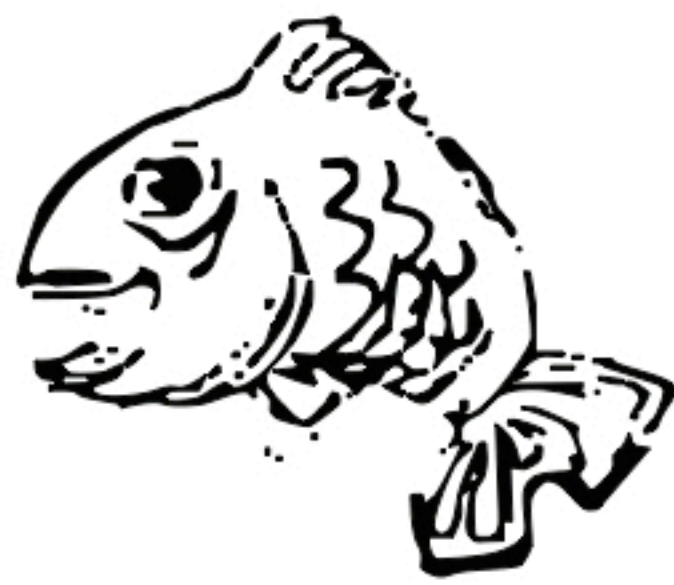


1959



1960

# Ann Arbor Street Art Fair Celebrating 50 Years of Originality

ANN ARBOR STREET ART FAIR  
JULY 19-20-21  
SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
between East U and Forest

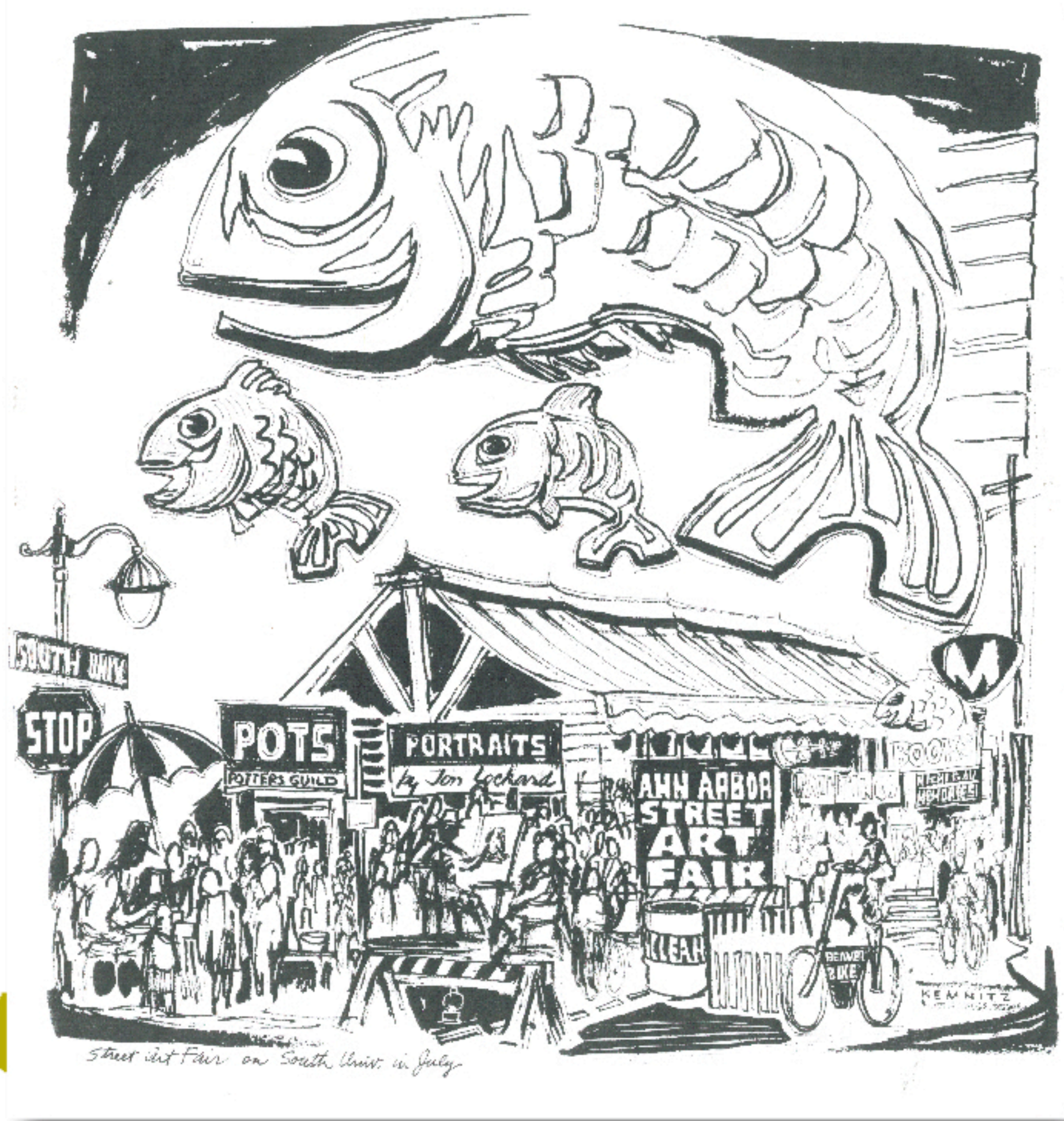


A view taken of the 1960 Fair by Dr. Walter Niemann

South University Avenue  
**STREET  
ART FAIR**  
ACTUAL DEMONSTRATIONS  
Potter's Wheel — Silk Screen — Weaving  
Painting — Drawing  
In the Streets of SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
(From E. University to Forest)  
Wednesday-Thursday-Friday  
9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
In Conjunction With  
**BARGAIN DAYS**  
You can afford to own the works of art of  
South University Avenue. Buy them at  
South University Avenue Store.  
Patrons: The Ann Arbor Association and the Chamber of Commerce



**First Street Art Fair Committee:** Mrs. Fred Beaver, Mrs. Fred Collier, Mrs. Clan Crawford, Mrs. Harold Dorr, Mr. Bruce Henry, Mrs. Robert Horton, Mrs. Volney Jones, Mr. Milton Kemnitz, Mr. Cecil North, Mrs. George Piranian, Mrs. Earl Rainville, Mr. John Ransom, Mrs. G. Davis Sellards, and Mr. Robert Shipman. Many of the women on the committee went on to acquire first names and have identities of their own.



**Bumps in the Road.....**  
Words written and repeated that first year,  
"Good art doesn't belong on the street; it  
belongs in a museum." and "...a scraggly  
little fair.".....

## A THOUSAND INVITATIONS

The idea of the fair was born in 1959 when Artisans owners, Jim Davies and Bruce Henry, approached the Ann Arbor Art Association asking if it would put on an "arts and crafts market" in conjunction with the merchants' Summer Bargain Days. The Art Association formed a planning committee. They wanted a show of quality and because the group wanted the effort to be educational, the Potters Guild and the Weavers Guild were asked to show and demonstrate their crafts. A thousand invitations were sent out to area artists. One hundred thirty-two responded. On July 20, the committee, their families and friends, strung up wire between parking meters and roped off make-shift booths for 99 local artists and 33 other Michigan artists. Three tents dominated two blocks of South University Avenue. Artists hung their prints and paintings, pots were set down on the street. Even though University of Michigan professor of art and director of the Museum of Art, Jean Paul Slusser said, "No good artist will sit in the street." they did; for three days. Bruce Henry donated Japanese paper fish which were hung from light poles to add a festive air. There was no entry fee for participating artists who, in total, earned \$4,500. Down on Main Street the merchants hosted a used car auction.



South University Avenue during the first fair in 1960. Tents protected some of the artists; the rest were open to the elements. Paper fish flew gaily from the street-lights and became the trademark of the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair.

**Weather Report:**  
Sunny, with highs in  
the mid 80s.

July 20-22  
**1960**