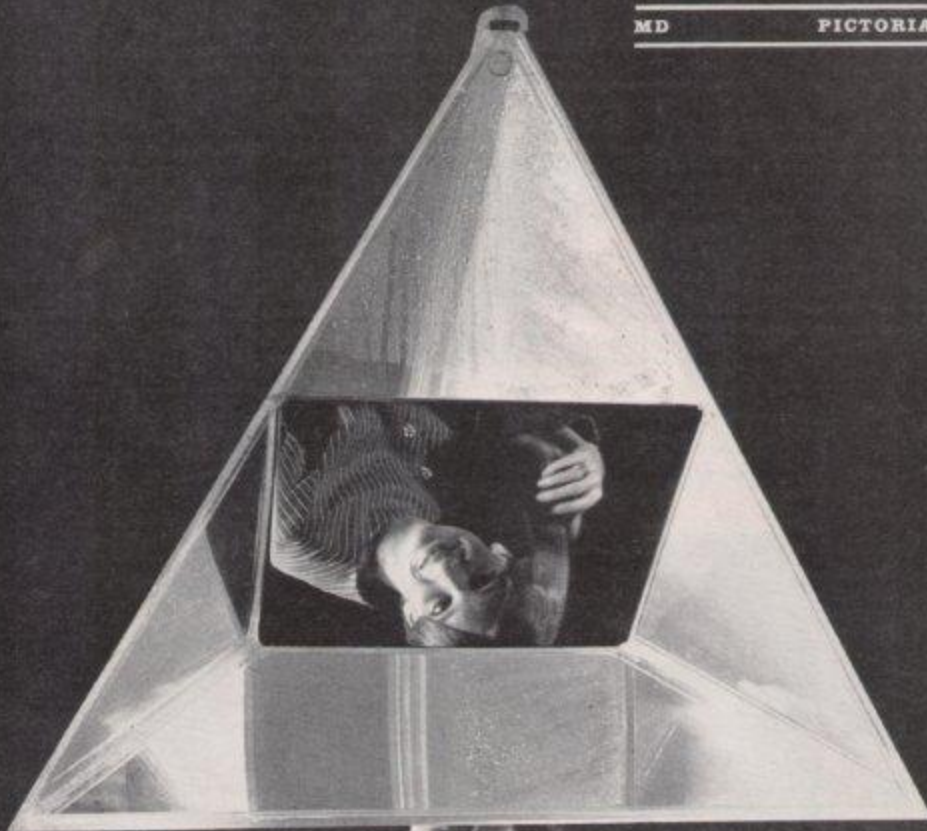


Plastic Sculpture

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PICTORIAL



Plastic form by Charles Ross half filled with water produces a mirror-like reflection and eliminates image when seen at certain angles.



LINKING ART and science Charles Ross, San Francisco sculptor, makes geometric forms out of colorless plastic materials which filled with water serve as prisms and lenses through which light is broken and the settings of the sculptures can be perceived distortedly and kaleidoscopically. By walking around the sculptures and looking through them, the viewer shares in the esthetic experience because the flowing, spontaneous images he sees depend on his own movements and not forms fixed by the artist.

Sculptor Ross himself links art and science. A former mathematics student, he did graduate work in art at the University of California at Berkeley and taught there before joining the art faculty at Cornell University. In 1964 he abandoned teaching to sculpt.

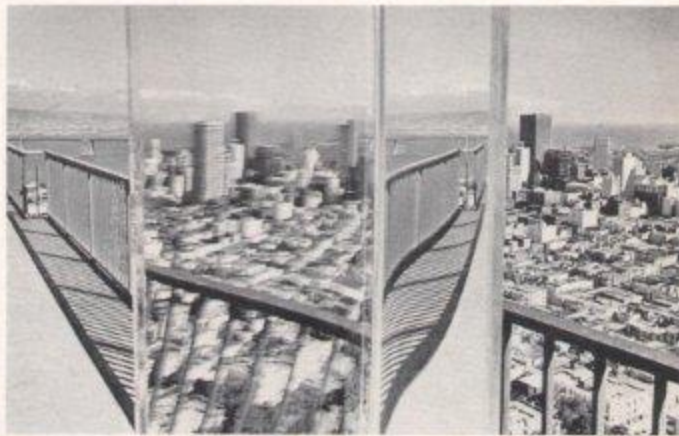
Recently he accepted a commission to execute an outdoor sculpture to be set in the California wine country and allowed photographer John Arms to record the making and installation of the work.

In his studio, Charles Ross, above, fits together and secures pieces of Plexiglas cut to his order. After removing the protective wrapping, he seals the edges of the Plexiglas, below, with waterproof glue, wearing a mask to protect himself from fumes. At right, his friend Yani Novak, a model and dancer, polishes on a wheel edges of a prismatic column he built.





Plastic sculptures, left, are works of Ross that were recently exhibited at a San Francisco art gallery. The plastic rectangle, above, filled with mineral oil, hangs in a San Francisco arcade. Note the distorted view of the wall directory which seems to form an abstract picture.



Sculpture by Ross, left, is on the terrace of a penthouse in an apartment building on Russian Hill in San Francisco. It is seen in a close-up, above. Note interestingly distorted reflection of the terrace it gives and the almost abstracted view of the city below.

Commissioned sculpture is installed. Each section, below, was filled with a solution of distilled water, antifreeze and an antibacterial agent. Before sealing the sections, Ross, right, probed with a stick to remove air bubbles in solution.



The sculpture consists of four three ft. high triangularly shaped Plexiglas sections fitted one on top of another, below, which sit on a three and a half ft. high base, right. Sculptor Ross believes it is the world's largest water-filled prism.

