

ENOUGH FOOLISHNESS



Nothing's sacred in home with a sense of humor

By KATHY MATTER
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ROCKFIELD—Tree-lined Rock Creek babbles by Fran and Terry Lacy's farmhouse and the barn-like studio where they turn hand paper into art.

When rain swells the small Carroll County creek, their lawn is underwater. Sure, the flood waters are annoying. But the Lacys are used to wearing rubber shoes in the drippy paper-making process, so it barely fazes them.

Twenty-one years ago, the husband and wife artist duo settled in to live, work and draw their creativity from the rolling farmland.

From the road, their house seems like the others nestled into the conservative countryside.

But as you pull into the Lacys' lane, cats eye you through decorative moons that are part of the ironwork on the Lacys' porch. And there's an echo of the same fanciful ironwork on their studio farther down the lane.

The ironwork offers the first clue that this is not an ordinary Indiana farmhouse. The second comes after opening the back door and finding this motto painted on it in script: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish."

Beyond the entry is what some—those devoid of a sense of humor—might call foolishness. The Lacys call it home.

Just as the farmlands around them change with the seasons, the Lacys' paper art is dominated by changing textures and colors. So is their home.

Rich shades of turquoise, purple, deep pink, blue green and orange tint their home and their art. Textures pile upon textures in the 90-year-old house that, structurally, remains essentially unchanged.

Kitsch mixes with antiques in a curious yet happy confusion. Somehow in this home fuchsia bookcases, Florida flamingos and Mexican fantasy monsters coexist perfectly with cherubs, oriental rugs and ornately carved lion's head chairs.

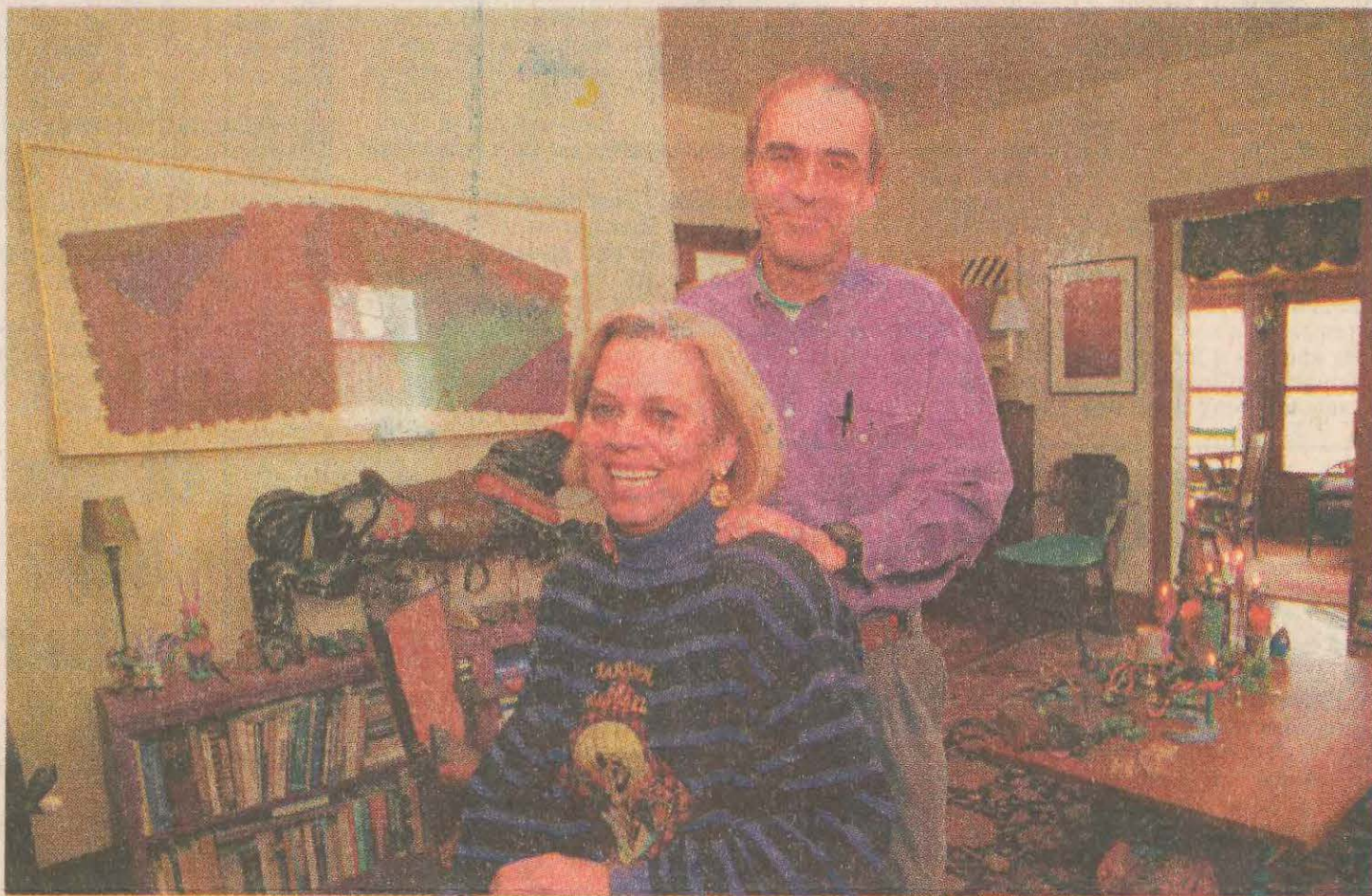
White porcelain hands pop out of the wall to hold a lighted bulb. A stuffed pheasant has holiday star garland streaming from its beak. Still, none of it looks out of place.

"We're not interested in having our home reflect a certain style. We want it to reflect what we're interested in and what we like," Terry says.

Fish tend to grab their interest. Among their many appearances, fish swim through artwork on the wall, line up in a row under the black belly of an old carousel horse and dangle in strings on the porch. Star and moon motifs twinkle in equal profusion.

Once something enters their eclectic decor "we keep it forever," Fran says. "Things become too personal."

Likewise, the Lacys find ways to display things that others would be tempt-



TOP: Fran and Terry Lacy's living room resembles a museum, chock full of pieces they have collected through years of diligently scouring the auction circuit.

MIDDLE: A carousel horse sports a Boy Scout beret. **RIGHT:** Hands protruding from a wall bring light and light humor into the room.

FAR RIGHT: Terry's ironwork moon frames some very cool cats that favor the outdoors, even in winter.

Photos by Tom Campbell/Journal and Courier



Fran admits, but she finally designed a backing so she could frame a collection of antique marbles.

In the kitchen, baskets and bowls behind the wood-burning stove are handy containers for sand-polished beach glass, interesting rocks, shells and driftwood picked up on visits to Lake Michigan.

"Some things are kind of neat, so we just let them sit around," Terry says.

You never know what you might find in other rooms: a bird cage with fake birds in the bathroom or a futuristic silver mannequin sporting a mask, sitting on a piano in a bedroom.

The Lacys look at their home as a giant 3-D puzzle, pieced together bit by bit with humor to create a unique style.

"Nothing's really sacred. We make things important like putting a doll head on a stand (in the bedroom). That's a pretty important place to be," says Fran.

"We're somewhat irreverent, and that's what makes all this happen," she

Palettes for living

You can get a feeling for an artist by staring at his or her creations in the soft light and muted surroundings of a museum. But there's no place in which an artist's work feels more comfortable than in the home of its creator.

Often an artist's home is as much an example of creativity as any piece produced. Peek into an artist's home, and that mysterious connection between art and artist becomes more clear.

- ▶ **SUNDAY:** The home of craftsman Jim Lovett
- ▶ **TODAY:** Fran and Terry Lacy's eclectic farmhouse in Carroll County
- ▶ **TUESDAY:** LuAnn Lamie's Lafayette apartment retreat