

PHOTO PAGE



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Below: Instructor Betty A. James (Knutson) Hoppensteadt looks at a student's finished product.



KALEIDO SCULPT

An one-time art class met on Saturday morning to show students how to build kaleidoscopes.

Tucked away in the far corner of the Instructional Center on Saturday were students who signed up to spend a morning engrossed in the world of kaleidoscope design and creation, taught by instructor Betty A. James (Knutson) Hoppensteadt.

Students were given the opportunity to learn about kaleidoscopes (created by Sir David Brewster in 1813, by the way) and their history, view various models and types, and for the main event, build their own kaleidoscope practically from scratch.

The intricacies of the patterns and shapes within the kaleidoscope are really an extension of the process of creating one. Kaleidoscope creation is meticulous and exact, with little room for error. The axle must be soldered with precision within the housing to assure symmetry. The mirror system must be assembled and handled with the utmost delicacy to avoid unwanted artifacts. Even the pattern creation, which is the most relaxed stage, requires patient hands and a keen eye.

For an object that is commonly picked up, viewed for a few seconds, and forgotten moments later, the amount of time and energy spent creating a kaleidoscope seems astronomical. That is, of course, until you hold the finished product up to your eye. It is an art form with a captivating visual payoff that could only be described as magical.

Left: Student Kevin Douglas lines up the axle inside the housing.

