



ENTRY FOR SHOW—This "Construction No. 151" is the entry Leroy Lamis, 3101 Oak St., has chosen as his entry in the University of Illinois invitational Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture Exhibit in March. Lamis, associate professor of art at Indiana State University, teaches advanced design at the local school. He has gained renown for his art in plastic. He uses all variations of cubes of transparent and opaque Plexiglas in different color such as this piece.

ARTIST AT WORK—Leroy Lamis, 3101 Oak St., associate professor of art at Indiana State University who teaches advanced design there, works in his studio on his newest art work, "Construction No. 167," made of variations of Plexiglas cubes. He is assembling and cleaning several cubes of sculpture, which takes infinite patience. (Photo by Kadel).

ISU Professor Brings Unique Form To Plastic

By **FRANCES E. HUGHES**
Star Staff Writer

Terre Haute can claim one of the few and most outstanding constructivist artists in the country living in the Midwest.

He is Leroy Lamis, 3101 Oak St., associate professor of art at Indiana State University. He teaches advanced design, mostly to undergraduate students.

Lamis is a remarkable sculptor. A quiet, conscientious man, he works in one direction with one material. The material is Plexiglas, both clear and colored, transparent and opaque.

Basic units of his work are cubes, squares and rectangles. With an understanding of his materials, he builds cubes within cubes. They are often completely transparent.

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The outer surfaces, polished, glowing and sparkling from within, cannot be touched without being marred. A single fingerprint is a blemish. The edges are highly polished so that light change will glance off. Light flows with the lines of the material.

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Constructivism is not really a

new form of art. Lamis was influenced in his sculpture by Nuam Gabo, Russian - born American who was the first constructivist.

In the two studios in his home, Lamis forms about 27 pieces of this art a year. One of the studios is used for cutting and storage, and the other for polishing and assembling his work. All of the art works are in contemporary design, which he has favored since his student days. He is one of the first artists to use plastic in this way. He cuts, cleans and assembles the sculpture from his own designs, which takes infinite patience.

Each piece of sculpture goes by number—not name. Each is a variation of cubes. He is now working on "Construction No. 167."

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Lamis feels the contemporary style house with contemporary furnishings, which he and his wife purchased shortly after coming to Terre Haute in 1962, provides the right environment for his work. He also now has time and adequate equipment to pursue his type of art.

The local artist is represented in New York by the Staempfli Gallery, where he had his second one-man show last May and where his art is now on exhibit at an international sculpture exhibit. He also has arranged to exhibit again in May at the Staempfli Gallery, in conjunction with Speed Museum, Louisville; John Herron Museum, Indianapolis; Des Moines Art Center and LaJolla, Calif., Art Center.

In March, his "Construction No. 151" will be on exhibit at the University of Illinois invitational Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture Exhibit.

His work is also now being shown along with that of 10 other midwest sculptors of 137 represented at an invitational Exhibition of Contemporary Sculpture in the Whitney Museum of Modern Art in New York.

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He exhibits only in invitational shows—not competitive ones. During the last year, he has had a one-man show at Gilman Gallery, Chicago; a one-man show at Fort Wayne Museum,

and also has exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Milwaukee Art Center, Rhode Island School of Design, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Mich.; Speed Museum, Louisville, Ky.; Des Moines Art Center and other galleries.

Local collectors who have pieces of his art are Ewing Miller, Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Crockett, Dr. and Mrs. Jack Weinbaum, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Blumberg and the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery. His work is found in several museum permanent collections.

Born in Iowa, Lamis was reared in California. He lived in New York a few years, where he worked on rotating prisms, lens and cut glass. He taught for five years at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon,

Iowa, before coming to Indiana State. During the period he was at Cornell, he welded I-beams and experimented with plastic.

He and his wife, Esther, have started a collection of art in their home. Sometimes the artist trades a piece of his work for something done by another artist. He also has purchased a few pieces of outstanding contemporary art.

His son, Alexander, 11 years old, is also now trying his hand at art, and shows promise of following his father's talent.