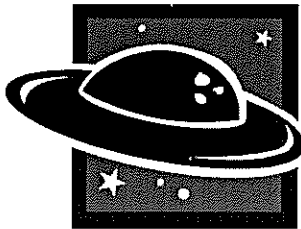


Sculptor of Callaway

For Rick Brummet, Home Is Where the Art Is



Below: One of Brummet's passions is the 1950s cartoon character Gumby. "Gumby was born the same year I was, so he's kind of a connection to my past. I think he's a good image for kids to look up to because there is no violence in him. Everything nowadays is so violent. But Gumby's a very wholesome character. He had a good message."

Right: Take me to your leader! Brummet's new "flying saucer" home under construction, inside and out.

Flying saucers hover over the lawn. Robots peer from corners. Space aliens park in the dining room in a vintage BMW.

Welcome to Rick Brummet's world.

Brummet, who has worked as a Quality Control Inspector at Callaway Plant since 1982, uses "trash" from the plant, flea markets, junk yards and other sources to make his property near Holts Summit, Mo., an art gallery.

Soon, Brummet will unveil his masterpiece: a new home, shaped like a UFO—complete with tracer lights.

"Callaway County's going to

wonder what the heck is going on," Brummet says. "I designed the basement so that it raises the saucer part of the house about a foot off the ground, giving the illusion of hovering. I just hope no one shoots at it!"

If no one's shot at his yard full of artwork so far, Brummet probably doesn't have much to worry about. His interest in "found art"—making art out of things other people throw away—has been a lifelong obsession.

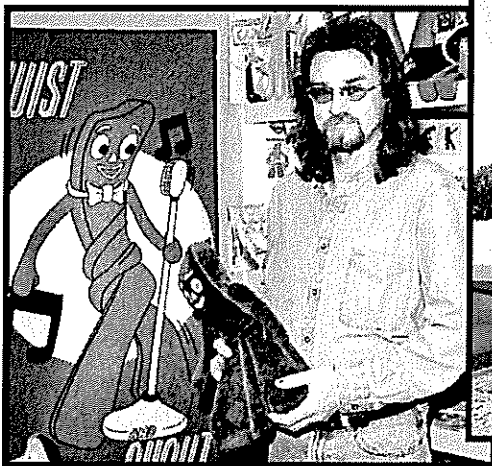
"I like to use recycled things," Brummet says. "I get a lot of really weird objects at the plant and make stuff out of them. They're all scrap mate-

rials released under Callaway's scrap policy, and, of course, none of it is radioactive. Turning it into art makes more sense than throwing in a landfill somewhere!"

If Brummet's art has a theme, it's probably the smooth, round curves of 1950s art and architecture, with a

good dose of science fiction thrown in for fun. In fact, with the help of an architect friend, he designed the house he's moving from with a '50s theme. It's filled with furniture from that era, including a vintage turquoise and pink diner collection.

Another example of his



interest in the era is the work he's done with old bowling balls; one of his bowling ball sculptures was displayed in a Columbia, Mo., gallery last year.

"Bowling balls are good because they're really accessible and cheap," says Brummet. "I've hit just about all the bowling alleys in the county looking for balls. If someone leaves a ball there too long, the alley will call me and I just go pick it up."

But overall, Brummet avoids thinking of his art as having a theme. Instead, he just enjoys being limited only

by his imagination.

"I used to restore classic cars, but everything had to be so perfect that I'd always end up disappointed at the end," he says. "With this, it's more fun. You can do anything, and it's OK." ●

Right: "Mail Man," the robot that doubles as Brummet's mailbox. "The mailman really likes it," Brummet says.

Below: Brummet with "Cosmic Cab" and his dog, Megan. The car is a 1958 BMW Isotta. Also shown in this photo is a piece of Brummet's 1950s-era dining room set.

