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Art & Artists

By Richard L. Brown
(The Star's Art Editor)

WOODCUTS by Donald Sutphin, Boston-born artist now

teaching in Florence, Italy, are on view through the summer at the Little Gallery Frame shop. It is an exhibit of mixed quality, but includes some highly competent and satisfying prints.

Sutphin has an affinity for a melodramatic air of despair and suffering, which he rubs in by giving his works titles like "We Run, We Run, We Run," "Field of Sorrow," and, for an especially gloomy one, "The World Has Created Me, I Will Forever Exist."

Titles have nothing much to do with the visual matters at hand, though, and Sutphin can be exceedingly skilled at suggesting form and mood with a few cuts, made with a sure hand.

His best work retains broad surfaces of solid black, as in "Adam, the Apple and the Tree," a simply and cleverly conceived print. Others in this excellent vein are "Field of Sorrow," "The Fugitive" and "Landscape in Tuscany."

The poorest examples are busy, full of wavy lines and niggling detail—such as "Memories" or "Little Girl." "Tragic October" also is unfortunate.

But it is good to notice that those prints which are far and away the best are also the most recent. They are well worth seeing, and the artist is worth watching.



"ADAM, the Apple and the Tree," a woodcut by Donald Sutphin, from his show at the Little Gallery Frame shop.