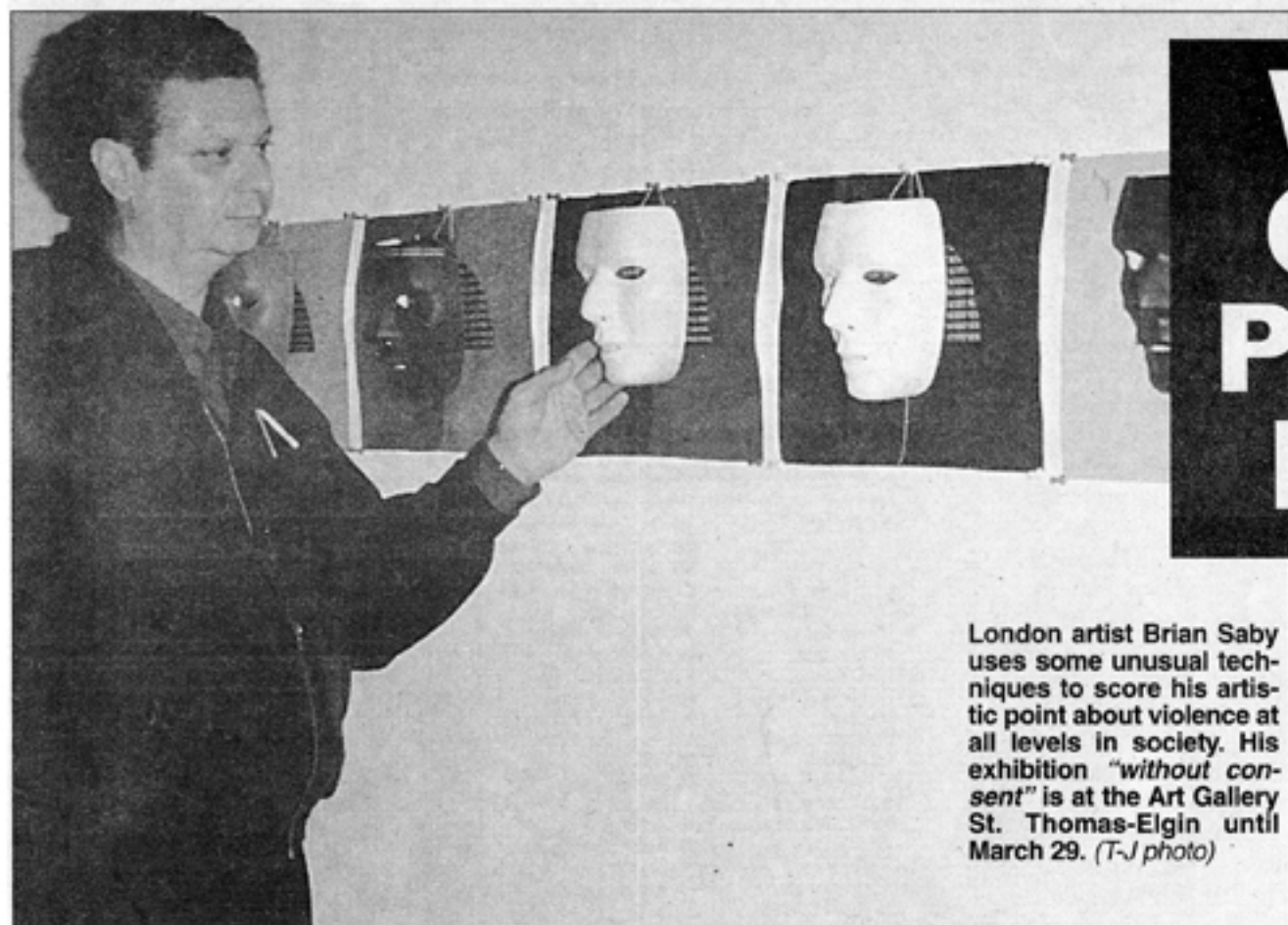


ON THIS DATE IN MUSIC

In 1966, Canadian Neil Young, Stephen Stills, Richie Furay, Dewey Martin and Bruce Palmer formed Buffalo Springfield in Los Angeles. The group laid the groundwork for country rock.



London artist Brian Saby uses some unusual techniques to score his artistic point about violence at all levels in society. His exhibition "without consent" is at the Art Gallery St. Thomas-Elgin until March 29. (T-J photo)

WITHOUT CONSENT PROVOKES EMOTION

BY MARG BERRY
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

Brian Saby's artistic statement about violence is seeped in dark purples and blacks, splashed with blood-red contrasts.

The computer-generated words evokes emotion. Black and white text reading "torture, sexist sex, alcohol, bloodshed" appear to move behind the eye holes of colored masks. The eyes seem to eerily follow viewers as they walk along the row of masks.

"Mask Installation 1 of 12" is one of the pieces in Saby's show "without consent" which opened at the Art Gallery St. Thomas-Elgin on Saturday.

The factory-produced masks, with their colored backings, hanging on the white gallery wall were chosen by the artist to make a point.

"We are completely indifferent to violence," Saby explained. "That's why I used masks punched out in a factory."

Saby, who was born in London and studied fine art at Fanshawe College from 1970 to 1973, said he is greatly influenced by television and videos. He said the violence seen on television has created a generation of people indifferent to violence.

After showing in commercial galleries for 10 years, Saby felt ready to speak out artistically about a violent society.

"This show is dealing with anti-violence. This is my statement," Saby said.

He explained that he is a visionary as he pointed out the huge dark paintings which form part of his exhibition. These larger works are made up of dark rectangles, each with a half circle representing a woman's eye looking out from a veil. These works developed from a vision Saby had of an Arab woman standing looking out over the desert. "Then the vision became me looking out of her eyes," he said. "I get a vision, and that usually leads to a show."

In Slaughter, the half eye looks over dark rectangles. A section just below the eye is the color of dried blood. In Torture, a bright red rectangle the color of fresh blood is set under the half eye, on a dark background.

Passion and Ego shows a row of full round eyes with a crown of thorns at the centre of each.

The theme and the way it is represented by Saby evoke an emotional response in the viewer.

Saby explains his work by way of a non-stop video presentation on a television screen at the back of the gallery. He classifies his work as minimal contemporary art, and he works in acrylics, oil stick and India ink.

"This is my statement against violence on all levels," Saby said.

"Without consent" runs to March 29 at the Art Gallery St. Thomas-Elgin, at 301 Talbot St., St. Thomas.