

## **Art Review: New exhibit strips away all but the gripping basics of nature**

By Janet Kutner

Harry Geffert is a dreamer---a man who chases rainbows and catches them more often than not. His skill at capturing the elusive moment by casting in bronze things as fragile as rippling water and saltine crackers is legendary. Now he's off on a new tangent at age 66.

In a way the farm boy from South Texas, who has spent the last 25 years on 13 acres of wood hills in Crowley, south of Fort Worth, has come full circle. Recent works on view in a provocative Pillsbury and Peters Fine Art show titled "The Fiery Art of Harry Geffert: The Three Rivers Series" harken back to his childhood.

This in itself is not new—he's been mining memory for much of his adult life. What is different is the way he treats the age-old subject of life and death, good and evil, the now and then.

Best known for elaborate allegories of life-size proportions and layered meaning, Mr. Geffert has greatly pared his vocabulary since the Dallas Visual Art Center mounted a 1998 survey in honor of his Legend Award. The results are impressive. By reducing things to basics, or taking the "icing off the cake" as he puts it, he makes more obvious the idiosyncrasy of his style, a strange combination of childlike innocence and technical wizardry.