

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

1986

Bennington Banner

College shows paintings, collection of African art

Two new exhibitions — one of African art and one of paintings by faculty member Sidney Tillim — will open together in Bennington College's Usdan Gallery Thursday with a public reception from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Thirty-three objects of tribal use will be shown as "Selections from the Molly and Walter Bareiss Collection of African Art." The pieces chosen by Bareiss and his wife, a Bennington alumna, are essentially objects used in daily life. They appeal as art, in Bareiss' view, by employing "ideas, shapes and patterns of life in an infinitely greater variety and breadth of creativity" than is typical of comparable Western work.

The concurrent exhibition is "Paintings" — 20 figurative and abstract works chosen by Tillim from nearly four decades of work. Five oil paintings date from 1949 to 1979. Tillim in that period chose mainly "to tell stories and depict events from history." He then changed his style. Fifteen large acrylic paintings in the show are abstract works from 1985-86.

Tillim's work has been shown frequently in New York and is in the Hirshhorn Museum and other collections. "Paintings" at the Usdan will be the first public display of his recent abstract work. He has taught at Bennington since 1966, a period when he wrote frequently for



A wooden Yoruba bowl, carved in Nigeria, is in the exhibit opening Thursday at Bennington College.

national arts publications. He has resumed this pursuit, after a hiatus of some years, with essays in spring 1986 issues of *Art In America*.

African art has been Walter Bareiss's enthusiasm for the past ten years. He had previously assembled notable collections of Athenian vases (on loan to the Getty Museum), Japanese prints (given to Yale), and illustrated books (given to the Toledo Museum of Art).

Bareiss, a retired businessman, was a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art. He continues to serve the museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Yale University



Peter Bellamy 1983

Sidney Tillim and his work.

Art Gallery and the state museums of Bavaria. It will run through November 7. The gallery, located in Bennington's Visual and Performing Arts Center, is open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.