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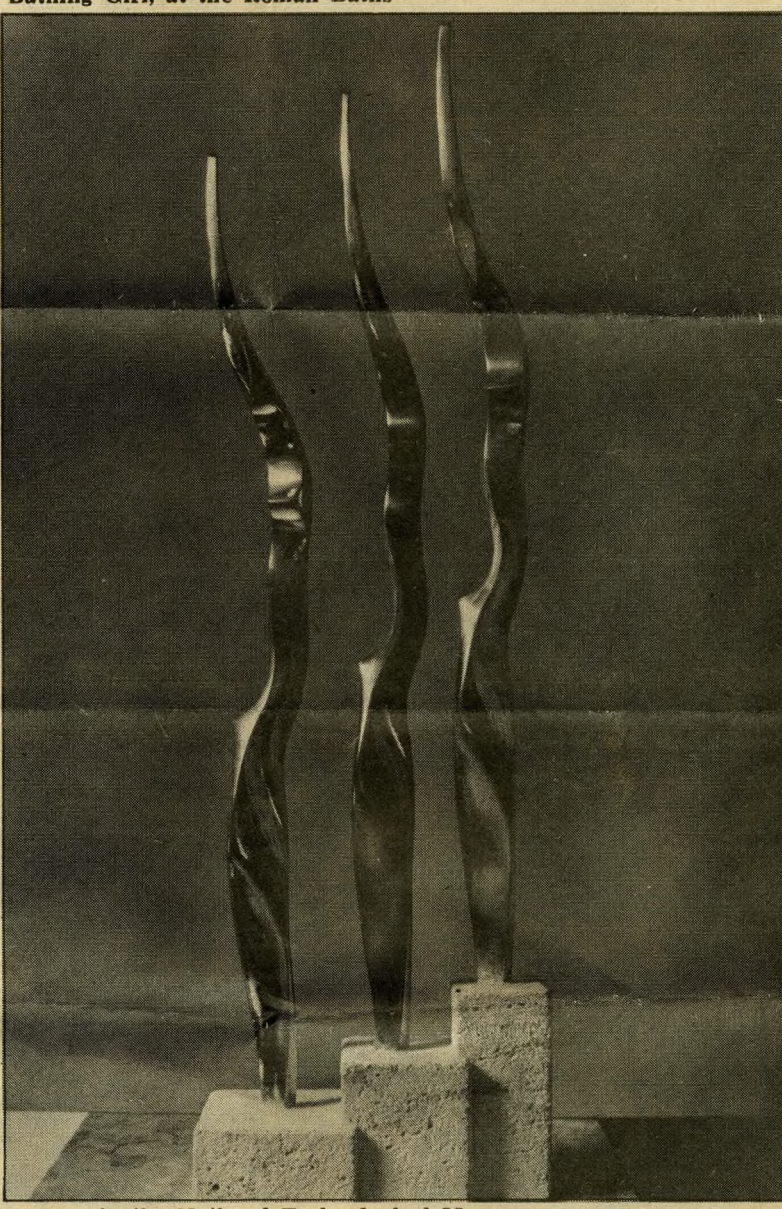
Farkas Istvan

Statue for Budapest's Roman Baths



Bathing Girl, at the Roman Baths

PHOTOS: PETER HARTFOLK



Energy, in the National Technological Museum

The well-frequented ancient Roman Baths, in north Buda near the Danube, has been one of the Hungarian capital's most favoured swimming pools in beautiful natural setting. Recently, a graceful statue, "Bathing Girl", by István D. Farkas, was erected here as the first statue in this spa area.

The sculptor, István D. Farkas has become known both at home and abroad in the course of his artistic career. He is a member of the Deutsche Medallionsgesellschaft, and has been commissioned to produce several medals for that society. István D. Farkas, formerly mathematics master in a college, has always been sculpture-minded beside his science specialization. At first he produced medals, then came the turn of his first portraits, followed by nudes that showed up his feeling for static order in space. Then came stylized cubist works and, going even beyond that, he produced semi-abstract and finally inspired non-representational compositions.

Some of his latest spatial structures and fountain designs still await execution. Their specific attraction is the well-ordered arrangement of dimension and structure. His sense of geometry is well reflected in his abstract compositions, like "Energy" he has recently produced for Budapest's National Technological Museum. The 3-metre-tall three-part metal composition symbolizes ages of human civilization, the metals used being bronze, steel, and aluminium, respectively. Its units are like flames, undulatingly extending upward, while at the same time indirectly reflecting Man's ambition in life. Interestingly, the steel flame was made of stainless chromium steel, which is difficult to work.

In our age of the scientific revolution, an important art trend professes a new mathematical-geometric constructivity. Little wonder that in the age of skyscrapers and space rockets art is trying to express itself in the idiom of science and in the form of technical compositions.

István D. Farkas' mathematical knowledge acts, as it were, directly on his art. He considers well-ordered space as his basic line of progress, and he develops mastery over structure. His plastic art expresses proportional geometric and organic formulae. At the same time, his representational statues faithfully reflect beauty. He delves deep into the enigma of existence, and seeks to find the inner activators of motion by a reduction process probing into the essence of reality, drawing the viewer into this process. He has also drawn on the oriental, mainly Indian, artistic tradition as a source of inspiration for some of his works.

A. T.