

ANSWERS IN THE FUTURE

Sculpture Symposium Not a Model Happening

A symposium "varies in quality, and the one we attended wasn't one of the better ones," modern sculptor Ernest Trova said Monday of a gathering that was something of a bust.

The session was held Sunday at the City Art Museum with Mr. Trova of St. Louis, and Ronald Judd and Mark di Suvero, both of New York City, sitting as a panel. They were assisting in the opening of "7 for 67," a viewing of art that museum curator Emily S. Rauh described as "provocative and controversial."

The controversy seemed to evolve from the panel's reluctance to talk with the audience about their art. For 45 minutes questions from the floor met with varying degrees of brusque answers.

"In a way it was a mistake to hold a symposium," Miss Rauh said later. "The audience was frustrated because no one could say in 25 words or less why you (an artist) do what you do."

Mr. Trova said he couldn't put his finger on why the session flopped.

"The artists were reluctant to discuss themselves in public, maybe," she said. "It was unfortunate, too, it couldn't have been conducted on a more scholarly basis. Some of the questions addressed to the artists were so general they didn't want to elaborate fully in reply, such as, 'What is the nature of art?'"

He added that the group felt more that judgment of their works rests with historians of the future, not audiences of the present.