

Vintage French arts combined

By CORINNE ABATT

There will be an added dimension of French inspired art when the Pontiac Oakland Symphony previews a work for piano and orchestra by Jules Massenet Friday.

Guest pianist, Flavio Varani of the Oakland University faculty and a popular performer in the metropolitan area, will join the orchestra under conductor David Daniels for the concert.

But even before the concert begins, theatergoers will have a good opportunity to wander through a display by the Michigan Chapter of the National Guild of Decoupage.

One of the area artists who will have some work on display is Kay Himes of Orchard Lake who also happens to be symphony executive secretary.

Because of the hours of work put in on each piece of this formal decoupage (as opposed to kits and paper tole), seldom are such items for sale.

"The prices would discourage most buyers," Mrs. Himes said.

For instance a large framed mirror Mrs. Himes will have in the show

represents two to three months of work. The hand coloring of the designs took about three weeks, she estimated. There are 40 coats of resin varnish on the wood and each has to dry 24 hours. The decoupage design which looks to be on top of the mirror itself is actually attached to the back of the glass—another very exacting process.

Mrs. Himes did the mirror as an item to be sold for advancement from one classification in the national guild to a higher one.

In total there are 400 members of the national guild and of these only eight have reached the top level of master craftsman. The two lower designations are layman and journeyman. To go from one level to the next, the artist must complete satisfactory examples of increasingly difficult techniques.

The guild holds a national convention every year and Mrs. Himes plans to attend the one in Los Angeles this spring.

In April 1979 she will co-chair the national convention to be held at the Dearborn Inn.

She particularly enjoyed working on a box, the lid decoration of which is called

modulage. This is a raised type of work where the figure or design is built up from the surface and shaped. One of the hardest types of work which Mrs. Himes has tried, via d'antique, will also be on display. This is done inside frame and has a stereoscopic look to it. Foreground, middleground and background areas are clearly distinguishable.

For a tray, the print was glued to the back of the glass and the tortoise shell looking background put on after.

The concert will mark the American premiere of Massenet's Concert in E Flat Major written in 1905.

Varani, artist-in-residence at the university, said, "Since its original performance in France during the same year (1905), the Massenet Piano

Concerto has not been performed according to published records. In fact, it has never been performed in the United States."

Varani has appeared on the concert stage throughout South America, Europe and the United States. He made his debut at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. He has appeared with the Detroit Symphony and the Brooklyn Academy Orchestra under Lukas Foss.

Other works on the program will be "Parade" by Erik Satie and Symphony in D Minor by Cesar Franck.

The concert will be at 8 p.m. in the Vanner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus. Tickets are \$8 or adults and \$5 for senior citizens. They are available at the door or through the symphony office, 324-6024 (mornings).



Tray with decoupage behind the glass base is done in shades of brown and amber which complements the wooden frame.

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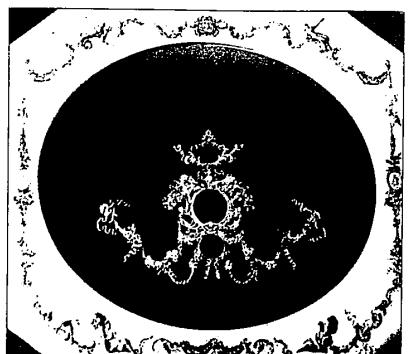
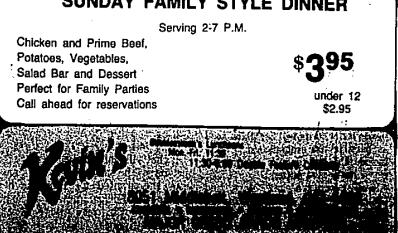
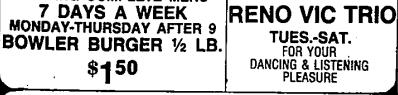
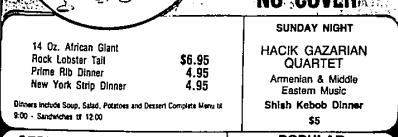
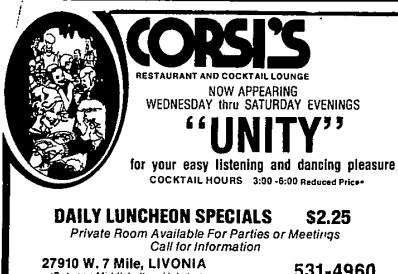
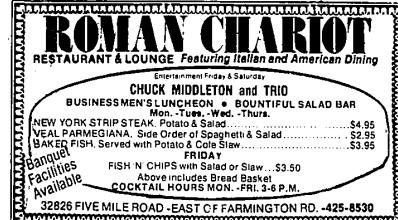


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Mirror represents hundreds of hours of work, including 40 coats of varnish on the wood.

New show focuses on the dyer's art

"The Dyer's Art," will open at Cranbrook Academy of Art museum Feb. 29 and run through April 2. It is a major exhibition that presents the art content of fabrics.

Based on internationally-recognized fiber designer Jack Lenor Larsen's book by the same name, "The Dyer's Art" is an array of more than 100 contemporary and historic examples of three basic resist techniques dyers use to decorate textile surfaces.

Resist dyeing means patterning fabrics or designs on fabrics by protecting parts of them from the dye. After dying, when the resists are removed, the pattern is revealed on a colored ground.

"Just as the American quilt and the Navaho blanket have been important inspirations to artists and designers, the dyer's art is having a strong influence as it presents fabric art of other cultures to the public," said Gerhardt Knodel, head of Cranbrook Academy of Art, the department.

The exhibition features little-known and popular historic and contemporary resists representing cultures from around the world. It also features work of contemporary American artists who use traditional techniques to make new art statements.

From an 18th century Mexican shawl to 19th century Japanese sashiko, a pre-Columbian Peruvian poncho and an 18th century Japanese kimono, the show offers an in-depth view of fabric art.

"The Dyer's Art" will also, according to Knodel, encourage people to look at

their own clothes as art, to be as sensitive to the fabrics as they are to the cut. Until now, resist dyers have considered only in ethnographic and historic contexts, Larsen explained. Now, it is moving out of ethnology and decorative art and into the view of a wider audience.

The marriage of thirsty cloth and liquid color produces ornament not on cloth but in it," Larsen said. "Offer feast for the eye and testimony of man's expansive imagination, resist-dyed clothes are also teachers and mentors."

In addition to the exhibition, viewers can purchase color posters-catalogs of the show for 50 cents; "The Dyer's Art book" by Larsen, a 1961 Academy catalog for \$37.50, and attend a public lecture by Larsen, who will discuss the exhibition at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in the museum lecture hall. Tickets must be reserved by calling 645-5212.

Complementing this will be an exhibit "Fiberscope 'Now-1978'" by the 17 Cranbrook Academy of Art fiber students studying with Knodel.

For more information or to reserve guided adult's and children's tours of the exhibits, call the museum 645-5312.

"The Dyer's Art" exhibition was organized by the Museum of Contemporary Crafts of the Crafts Council, New York, where it opened. It is traveling under the auspices of The American Federation of Arts.

Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, 500 Lone Pine is open to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sundays.

Argerich displays sensitive artistry

By GRETCHEN MC HUGH

Chopin's melodies.

The performance of this work was dedicated to Pollini's 1,000th anniversary as a pianist. A dedication to St. Valentine also would have been perfectly fitting. Bravo and curtain calls celebrated Miss Argerich's first performance with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Miss Argerich has all the marks of a true artist. Her technique is solid and secure. This allows her to give her interpretive powers full rein—and these are some interpretive powers. Her playing of this big Romantic piano work evoked the yearnings and passion of young love that history tells us it contains. She did this always with sensitivity and delicacy that were when she is.

The orchestra—particularly the strings—shone in a fine performance of Schubert's big Major Symphony No. 9. From quiet, sensitive, and hushed inclusions produced perfectly controlled dynamics both of long crescendos and decrescendos. She displayed an incredible sensitivity to the singing quality of

