

# All-Michigan show designed to kill myth

By ETHEL SIMMONS  
Do Michigan art collectors prefer New York art? Do local artists have to make it professionally in the Big Apple before their work rates with knowledgeable art collectors here? West Bloomfield artist Mary Beard, who is serving as exhibition coordinator for the Pontiac Creative Art Center (PCAC), said she wants to destroy the myth that Michigan collects New York art.

To prove her point, visually, she has organized a major exhibition "Michigan Collects Michigan Art," which will open Sept. 11 at the PCAC at 47 Williams.

Although there have been exhibitions of Michigan art in the Detroit area, this is the first show in recent years to cover a broad range of art from a historical perspective.

"THIS IS the old vs. the new," Mrs. Beard said. "It shows where the artists came from artistically, from representational art of years ago to the experimental art of today."

Sixty-five artists, including many from the Birmingham-Southfield-Rochester area, are represented in the show. Works are limited to one by each artist.

The art works were chosen by Mrs. Beard in conjunction with 27 prominent collectors who live in Michigan.

Mrs. Beard has been putting the show together only since April. It was not a difficult job for her, she said. "I know the artists and the art scene and the names of their collectors," she said.

As an artist, she had heard of many well-known collectors but didn't know them personally.

"There are peer groups in art. There are peer groups in collectors; they know each other. They're into collecting like artists are into painting or sculpture."

MRS. BEARD said she expects all the collectors to attend the show's opening night, which will include a "controversial discussion of art."

A panel organized by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, program coordinator, will consider the pros and cons of "Can You Learn to Love the Art You'd Like to Hate?"

A catalogue for the show will include statements from each of the collectors on why they collect Michigan art. Their statements are lively, provocative and in many cases startling. Their views are as different as their collections.

There are statements from Mary Denison, artist Reva Shwayder, architect Eliot Benson, and Martin and Rosalie Buttel, among the local collectors.

More area collectors are Isabel Harlan, Mr. and Mrs. Avern Cohen,

Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Deer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ely, Mr. and Mrs. John Turmalas, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Eliot Robinson, Richard and Jan De Vore, Mr. and Mrs. E. Jan Hartman.

Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Barron, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Silverman, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Randall, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hiller, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bernstein and Mr. and Mrs. John Haro.

Mrs. Beard said one of the reasons she wanted a show featuring collectors is so "people would be familiar with them as people, not just a name."

ART WORKS displayed date back to the 1920s and up to today. Ian Lyons, PCAC director is doing special research on the backgrounds of eight Michigan artists shown who have made important contributions to the art world.

This material, which will be a catalogue highlight, emphasizes the late David Friedenthal, with "Cement Mixer WPA," showing a project of the 1930s' Sarkis Sarkisian, retired as head of the Detroit Society for the Arts and Crafts; Walter Midener, who presently heads the society now known as the Center for Creative Studies; the late Zoltan Sepeshy, who was president of the Cranbrook Academy of Art; Wallace Mitchell, current president of Cranbrook; the late Mary Chase Stratton, whose ceramics of the 1920s are treasured art works; the late Albert Kahn, architect; and the late Charles Culver, painter.

Some works in the show are on loan from the Detroit Institute of Arts. Dr. John Neff, curator of Modern art at the institute, is loaning from his personal collection an experimental art work of plasticized cloth tape by Steven Foust.

Other experimental artists, working in the newer mediums, who are in the show include Gary Smith, with a kinetic light box (from the Walter and Mary Denison collection).

head of the women's club are Martha Berger of Bloomfield Hills, vice-chairwoman Lois Mervel of Bloomfield Hills, contact chairwoman Joyce Groh of Birmingham, project chairwoman.

All three of the Christian clubs in the area are connected with a national organization called Stonerock located in Kansas City, Mo., with more than 100 clubs throughout the world.

Since there are no official members in the clubs, there are no dues. But the plan is passed at luncheons to raise money for the national projects—supporting Christian missionaries in small communities in the United States where there are no churches.

Those attending the meetings pay for the luncheons, and Stonerock publishes a monthly magazine to which followers subscribe.

"OUR GOAL," said Mrs. Walker, "is to accept Jesus Christ into our personal lives and to help others welcome Him into their lives."

Speakers at our meetings usually give testimonies on how they found Christ. . . continued

Many women welcome Jesus into their lives at our luncheons," she said. . . But it is a very private thing, not like it's done at a Bible Church, meeting where people in the audience react to the Word.

Mrs. Walker spends a great deal of her time encouraging others to meet Christ in their own hearts. . . I put and others to help the ones that are struggling.

The club is in addition to the meetings held. . . Bible study sessions, members' luncheons, and 11:30 a.m. Bible study on the first and third Sundays.

Prayer is a vital part of our club . . . we pray about many things, said Mrs. Walker, who went to her first luncheon with a friend eight years ago and immediately fell in love with the organization.

For 10 years the Christian women's group has been praying for a facility in the Detroit area large enough to accommodate the Billy Graham crusade.

Our prayers have been answered," said Mrs. Walker. "The Pontiac Stadium was built and Billy Graham will be here Oct. 15-24."

CAROLYN LYNN of Farmington, who is actively involved with the club, is serving as prayer advisor for the Graham crusade here.

Most of the women who attend our luncheons are homemakers and come

Observer & Eccentric

Farmington

LIFE

Monday, August 16, 1976

(P)18



Exhibition coordinator Mary Beard poses with acrylic "Painting No. 6" by Ara Koutouris (Staff photos by Barbara McCallion)

"IT GOES round and round and says, 'I am not a work of art,'" according to Mrs. Beard.

"Funk art is represented with a 'Hair and Metal' box by Gary Kulak; minimal art with a black painting by Sheldon Iden ('That's as near as you can get to minimal art,'" Mrs. Beard said); and constructions by David Barr.

"Blueprint" by Mary Beard, which she did for a space series, is

included in the show, (from the collection of the John Turmalas. Mrs. Beard said the blueprint was from a one-man show that traveled to the Midland Center for the Arts.

The Pontiac Women's Guild has arranged for area women to be docents at the exhibition. The Pontiac Society of Arts and Pontiac Arts Council has shared in planning.

Docents will conduct individual



Zoltan Sepeshy's "Post Peasant" in oil is from the collection of Eliot and Sally Robinson.

## Artists represented

Area artists whose work will be shown in "Michigan Collects Michigan Art" include the following:

George Vihos of Birmingham, Ray Frost Fleming of Bloomfield Township, Reva Shwayder of Franklin, Sally Robinson of Birmingham, Wallace Mitchell of Bloomfield Hills, Mary Beard of West Bloomfield, Robert Kidd of Bloomfield Township, Marie Wood of Birmingham; Barbara Wittenberg of South-

field, Michael Hall of Bloomfield Hills, Richard De Vore of Bloomfield Hills, Hannah Stichel of Bloomfield Hills, Carolyn Hall of Birmingham, Tom Brun of Rochester, Arthur Schneider of Franklin, Glen Michaels of Birmingham, John Ghek of Farmington and Michele Diner of Franklin.

Carol Wald of New York, a former Southfield resident, is among the Michigan artists not presently residing in Michigan who are included in the show.

Panelists for the opening night program will be Dr. John Neff of the Detroit Institute of Arts; Gilbert Silverman, an international collector; Ruth Rattner, instructor in art history at the University of Windsor; and artist Max Shaye of Franklin. Rabbi Wine, leader of the Birmingham Temple, will moderate.

tours during the show. Group tours can be arranged by calling the art center at 333-7849.

THE GALLERIES will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. "Because of the importance of the exhibition the galleries also will be open Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.," Mrs. Beard said.

The show is open to the public without charge, through Oct. 6.

## Christian women bring Billy Graham to area

By ALICE COLLINS

The Northwest Detroit Christian Women's Club doesn't have an official membership list but as chairwoman Mary Walker of Bloomfield Hills says at her monthly luncheon meetings, ranges from 150 to 200.

We don't want anyone to feel obligated to come," she said. "That's why there are no lists. They come when it fits into their schedules or when they want to."

Musical and prayer are deeply integrated into the meetings.

Prayer is a vital part of our club . . . we pray about many things, said Mrs. Walker, who went to her first luncheon with a friend eight years ago and immediately fell in love with the organization.

For 10 years the Christian women's group has been praying for a facility in the Detroit area large enough to accommodate the Billy Graham crusade.

Our prayers have been answered," said Mrs. Walker. "The Pontiac Stadium was built and Billy Graham will be here Oct. 15-24."

CAROLYN LYNN of Farmington, who is actively involved with the club, is serving as prayer advisor for the Graham crusade here.

Most of the women who attend our luncheons are homemakers and come

from the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Troy area from Southfield-Farmington-Royal Oak-Rochester and other surrounding communities.

The Christian Women's Club meets at 12:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Somerset Inn in Troy. At each luncheon there is a special speaker and music. On Aug. 10 Gloria Carter, author of "The Stones Cry Out," was guest speaker.

The organization is non-denominational, said Mrs. Walker.

"THERE ARE three topics banned from our luncheons—anything sectarian, politics and calories," she said. "Everybody sticks to that pretty well."

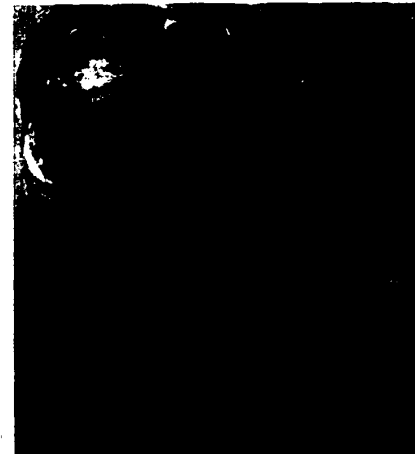
We always remind them at the beginning of each meeting and they just don't discuss those things.

For women who work during the day, there is a companion organization Christian Business and Professional Women, who meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Birmingham Community House.

There is also a couples club started two months ago.

Additional information about any of the three groups may be obtained by calling Mrs. Margaret Howay of Troy at 568-1184. Mrs. Howay is the telephone chairwoman.

WORKING WITH Mrs. Walker at the



MARY WALKER

### Truck'n on

### back to school

As the gang gets in gear for a new school year, tune in to our fall fashion line up for Miss J and Mr. J

**Thursday, August 19 at 7:30 P.M.**

a caravan of colors will travel before your eyes with the pacesetting styles right for your way of life.

## Jacobson's

BIRMINGHAM

SHOP JACOBSON'S THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVENINGS 7-9 P.M.  
2 HOURS FREE PARKING . . . WHEN YOU MAKE A PURCHASE