



Deck the halls in 1850

Hill and Dale Garden Club members finalize the bicentennial year by hosting "Deck the Hall in 1850," a standard flower show for the Detroit Garden Center on Dec. 4-5. Working toward the event in a workshop (above) are Nancy Passfield, (at left) Marge Gordon, Beverly Smith and Jan Rieeson. (At right) Mrs. Smith, who hosted the workshop, shows a close-up view of a Della Robia wreath, made of fresh, preserved fruit, in an 1850 tradition. The women chose the historic Moross House, located at

1460 E. Jefferson, for the pre-Christmas spectacular, which will show table settings, door decorations, swags, flower arrangements, package decorations, tree trimmings and horticulture, all created in 19th century decor. Mrs. Michael J. Byrne Jr. of West Bloomfield is chairwoman of the show, and her co-chairwoman is Mrs. Wesley Robertson of Farmington. Show hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



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Quilted paintings return to BBAA Holiday Art Fair

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Ellen L. Rontal, whose quilted paintings painted at the first time in the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association's BBAA Art Fair in 1975, is back again to be part of the fair on Dec. 3-5.

The art show stoppers received the unique pieces with much interest, she said. "I have many in my collection," she said.

"I like to see the viewers' reactions. I hear their comments and know what they are enjoying them. I like to know if I did good."

Both her drawings and quilts are famous parts of Madras. Some are in frames, and some framed with a complimentary quilted piece to blend with the picture.

So far as the artist, she is the only artist who combines quilting with painting.

SHE WORKS with color and has a wide range of subjects. She has painted many of the most popular subjects, it may appear to be a drawing made of patchwork. But each picture is a work of art.

Her work is the finest with quilting and patchwork. It is a piece within the drawing, she said.

The artist is a woman of many talents. She has painted many of the most popular subjects, it may appear to be a drawing made of patchwork. But each picture is a work of art.

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THE IDEA to combine her sewing talents with her painting stemmed from a suggestion by the BBAA in a magazine last year. "I like to make quilt Christmas cards," she said. "I like to make quilt Christmas cards," she said.

All I did was enhance on the idea. Mrs. Rontal said. "I tried using various fabrics for the quilted part. That was too stiff and I've even done the portrait now."

The portrait was done of the owner of Gallery Christine Flay, in Hialeah Springs, where some of Mrs. Rontal's things are shown.

Others are on display in a shop in Aspen, Colo., and in what's known as Maple Road in Farmington.

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ELLEN L. RONTAL



Dyes and muslin, quilt batting and stitching are combined by Ellen L. Rontal to create quilt paintings, maybe the only ones of their kind (above and at left). They will be on display Dec. 3-5 at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association's Holiday Art Fair. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

