

Painter interprets designs in fabric

Sandy Selden no longer paints with oils and a cable brush. Instead, she uses scraps of material and a sewing machine's zigzag stitch.

The owner of Sandy's Main Street Designs in Hixchester, Ms. Selden has transferred the painting skills she learned as an art student at Cranbrook Academy in Bloomfield Hills to an unusual medium—men's, women's and children's clothes. A ways haired rebeard with an infectious laugh, Ms. Selden transforms ordinary t-shirts, skirts and coats into one of a kind clothing with a technique called trapunto, or stuffed stitchery.

She first creates a design out of multi-colored patches of fabric, primarily old-fashioned patterns and colors then sews

each part in place and stuffs it with cotton, making a raised surface.

The inspiration for the works comes from old-fashioned American quilts, but the result is distinctly contemporary.

"I WAS DOING a similar thing in painting," she says, before Bev Seger, owner of The Bevy clothing store in Harbor Springs convinced her to try her technique on clothes.

Ms. Selden's paintings were free flowing fabric pieces, with different colors and textures of material suggesting line and form. She received a masters in painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art and an undergraduate degree from the Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa. Born in Chi-

cago, she and her husband, Steve, have lived in Hixchester about two years.

It was in 1973, while working in an art gallery with Ms. Seger, which coincidentally was showing an exhibit of American quilts, that Ms. Selden first tried out her stuffed stitchery. The Bevy is now one of several stores which carries her work (others include 21 and 17 in Dayton, Ohio, and The House Inn, Janet Farmer's and The Mole Hole in Hixchester).

"The best stores we've gotten have come to us," Sandy says, after having a job of sewing her work in other stores. Recently, she and Steve, who does much of the leg work in the organization, bringing in samples to different stores, decided to start taking orders from individuals, rather than just outlets.

Now, for \$24 and up anyone can own an original, designed shirt, for \$400 up to \$450, an original skirt. The price depends on how large the item is, the intricacy of the design and whether or not she brings their own shirt or skirt.

Sandy designs for nearly any object, ranging from capes to purses, pillows to Christmas stockings. Unless she gets a request for a specific scene, she designs

everything herself.

"SOMETIMES PEOPLE give ideas," she says. "I lean towards landscapes."

Some customers are more explicit, sending in photos of their home or pets, with detailed instructions on what type of scene they want.

Despite their success at their main business, the Seldens have no urge to expand the tiny rear room where Sandy has her sewing machine. Cluttered with fabric samples and sewing paraphernalia, the room is lined with skirts and dresses already done.

"The stores who have done well by us send us new customers," Steve says, so their sewing machine is always humming. Sandy sews at least eight hours a day, maybe more, always working on one project or another. An assistant helps out with sewing several days a week.

Both of them feel, however, if they get too large, the business would lose its originality and thus its charm. Even though Sandy can turn out as many as 45 shirts a week, Steve says, "The whole process from design idea to finished product doesn't lend itself to mass production."

Sandy sews as much for enjoyment as to

make money. "I'd think I'd do it even if I wasn't making money," she says. As long as things stay that way, Sandy's Main Street Designs will continue to be some thing special for all her customers.

B Siegel

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Sandy sews amid a roomful of her designs. (Staff photos by Doug Bauman)



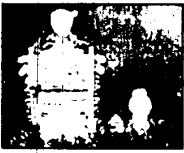
This cape coat was completely designed and made by Sandy. The corduroy coat with calico lining has a stuffed stitchery design of a fruit basket on the front and side.

Where It's At

By JUDY SOLOMON

Sweet talk

Barbara Gasser's candy crafts are not just lovely to look at, they taste good too. Pictured here is Mrs. Claus sitting on a base of colorfully wrapped hard candies imported from England and Holland. Also you find Santa himself surrounded by candy and perched on top of a wood house which bears the name of the recipient. Many different types are available to suit any occasion or, if you prefer, Ms. Gasser will do custom designs.
Creative Confections, 646-5326.



A-door-able

Here's a novel way to adorn your front door this Christmas. It's a ribbon wreath, 15 inches in diameter, made from 60 to 70 yards of ribbon. Sandy Barr uses 16 different patterns to construct each wreath (\$20) and she also makes matching ribbon kissing balls which have artificial mistletoe hanging underneath (\$10). Best of all, you can re-use them next year and for many years to come.
Village Barn, 32760 Franklin Road, Franklin, 851-7877.



Picture this! 1st

Let's face it, this is a super way to show off someone special to you, whether it's your beau, your grandchildren, your dog or even yourself. It's a navy blue hooded sweatshirt with your favorite photo reproduced front and center. Any single photo, either group or individual, black and white or color, can be used and the photo you submit will be returned. Available in children's sizes two to 16 (\$12), and in adult sizes up to men's large (\$14), there is a delivery in three to four weeks. The price also includes the name or word of your choice pressed on in block letters.
Young Accessories, Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy, 643-9000.



Put a glow on

These unusual Christmas candles are sure to add a special glow to your holiday decor. The green wax Christmas tree candle rests on a white wax base and is trimmed with tiny red ball ornaments (\$7.50). The candy cane candle has alternating stripes of red and white and is available in sizes three by six inches (\$5) or a three by nine inch size (\$6). There is also a white candle three by nine inches featuring a raised design of green holly leaves with red berries (\$5). The angel candle, available in white or golden beige, consists of four angels constructed in a circular design and measures six inches in diameter. Each angel holds a musical instrument (\$7).
Village Card Shop, Bloomfield Commons, 3637 W. Maple, 647-4457.



A "trapunto" landscape.

Cookbook has venison recipes

So you're a housewife whose husband will be hunting deer this year. What are you going to do with all the venison he brings home?

If you're married to one of the 750,000 hunters who will be aided when Michigan's deer season opens Monday, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs can answer your questions about serving venison.

MUCC's popular cookbook, "The Wildlife Chef," contains a section devoted exclusively to preparing and serving venison, including 50 venison recipes. They are among the more than 250 recipes for game and fish dishes between the covers of this unusual cookbook.

In addition to the recipes, the publication contains tips of field dressing, care of fish and big and small game, freezing and other aspects of the preparation of food from the wilds.

Since it was published a year ago by the non-profit conservation organization, "The Wildlife Chef" has undergone a second printing in order to meet demand for the manual, which promises to become a perennial favorite.

Proceeds from the sales will be used by MUCC to carry out programs for the advancement of conservation, environmental quality, and outdoor recreation.

Copies of "The Wildlife Chef" may be obtained for \$2 each, postpaid, from MUCC, P.O. Box 30235, Lansing, 68909.

You are cordially invited to the opening of

at Claire Perone
on
Tuesday, November 30th
from 5-7 p.m.*

*Come by & introduce yourself to Eli Zabor

When You come to E.A.T. at Claire Perone, you will be entering a world of delectable things to savor and give.

For eating, there are marvelous cheeses, some of them exclusively imported, such as Vacherin Mont d'Or, a seasonal cheese made when the herds are not being moved to pasture. It is a noble cheese with a slightly Beaujolais flavor that goes well with a fruity Beaujolais and Anjou pears. There is also Gaperon, a French cheese low in fat, spicy and nice with aperitifs. There are also whole sides of smoked salmon, tins of cream crackers from England, Russian evening tea without tannic acid, Italian Amaretti cookies, and preserves imported from many countries, such as rose petal jelly from France, gooseberry jam from England and jars of Acacia honey from Greece.

For giving, there are great breads which E.A.T. will pyramid and tie with ribbons for a spectacular house gift or for weekends when there are loads of hungry guests, five-pound bags of pistachio nuts, a giant jar of cornichon pickles, hickory smoked almonds, a salad basket with oil and vinegar from Provence, and tiers of tinned pretzels, mammoth pecan halves and chocolate hearts.

When you come to E.A.T. at Claire Perone, we'll fill your shelves from our shelves and do all your Christmas shopping.

E.A.T. at Claire Perone, Somerset Mall, Troy
E.A.T. at Henri Bendel, New York City