

Four new faces make colorful exhibit

By CORINNE ABATT

The four artists in "New Faces" contribute a welcome amount of color and verve to the local scene. The exhibit is at the Rubiner Gallery of Royal Oak through April 29.

The excitement mounts before the visitor even walks into the gallery. From the window on Washington, it radiates from the large, six-panel acrylic of foods and vegetables by Beverly Neumann to the brightly patterned watercolors by Deborah Hecht on the left wall and the lush, pastel nudes and figures by Elsie Dinsmore Popkin on the right.

In between all of this color, there is a group of subtly colored ceramics by Dick Evans, who gives his media qualities that go far beyond clay. His is a delicate, almost fragile concept. Some of his sculptural forms have a frosted, shell-like look, particularly his hollow, softly colored forms which seem to have come from some castle deep within the ocean depths.

Since the works of each of the four are strong enough to demand the viewer's complete attention, credit must go to Allen and Carol Rubiner for successfully amalgamating the four into a pleasing show.

The fact that each works in a different medium helps to distinguish but for all three painters—it's color, color, color.

MS. NEUMANN is an impressive colorist and highly capable painter.

Her six panels in the front of the gallery are 66 inches by 13 each. Each panel concerns foods—the kind seen in heaps in a supermarket. She can take a pile of red peppers and, through brilliant color and accent on form, turn them into total beauty. Another panel is a batch of Chinese fortune cookies. They take on new life in their abstract design.

Ms. Neumann continues to find beauty in food. One acrylic is of salad makings, another large one is apples, and still another of an endless pile of bags of groceries. The pile of bags is a statement painting, for what regular supermarket shopper hasn't at one time or another pictured life as an endless round of filled shopping bags? Other Neumann paintings are a five-panel progression of the birth of a robin, a houseplant in vibrant blues and greens and a lonesome cow. There is little that's hesitant or tentative about this artist, she revels in color combined with an eye for form and beauty in unlikely subjects.

In watercolors, Deborah Hecht details her own life, painting her surroundings in a New York City apartment and studio loft. Ms. Hecht is fearless in her combination of elements, each of which is a brightly-colored design.

The window by the breakfast table has gayly printed curtains which frame a view of a flower garden. The familiar details of her presence are in all her paintings—an umbrella in a corner, clothes on the inside of the

open closet door, a broom closet complete with broom and cleaning supplies.

The mundane becomes charming in these commentaries on a busy, pleasant life.

ELsie DINSMORE POPKIN uses pastels that, in lesser hands, have a vividness about them. But, her nudes, still-lives and figures are often done against brilliant backgrounds that have a sensual quality.

One nude, visible from the front window, reclines against a lush red cover

that is reminiscent of Renoir in its color and contours.

Ms. Popkin delights in reflections—a part of a figure reflected in a mirror, a plant reflected in a window.

In "Homage to Degas," she softens her color in this still-life of 19th century hats to convey the impression that this was a period when women were gentle creatures with an untouchable quality about them. Her children, too, have an innocence—the same feeling that Mary Cassatt could capture so effectively.

All three painters are realists who aren't afraid to show they have studied and been influenced by the great art of the past. Still, their comments, in most instances, are contemporary.

It is a pleasant change from avant garde modern fare. It doesn't signal a change, simply that there is a growing acceptance of a variety of approaches within contemporary art.

Staff photos by
Dick Kelley



Elsie Dinsmore Popkin uses pastels to do a modern portrait with 19th century overtones.

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Beverly Neumann's endless bags of groceries may bring tears to the eyes of many a housewife.

Students score in German test

Four North Farmington High students placed above the 90th percentile on the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) national standardized test recently.

They are: seniors Sue Riedel and

Gary Newell, and juniors Anne Scheffler and Sharon Powell.

The students' scores will make them eligible for consideration for an all-expense paid study trip to Germany this summer.

Ms. Francis wins award

Anne Marie Francis, a 1974 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School, Farmington Hills, has won a cash award and a citation from the Michigan State University chapter of Sigma Xi, national science honor society.

Ms. Francis, of Detroit, is a senior majoring in zoology. She was awarded

\$50 and a citation for an original paper on water fluoridation. She was one of 10 MSU students honored.

She is a student in the Honors College at MSU, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi national honor societies. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Viljo Francis of Detroit.



VIEW private beach on spring fed Walnut Lake from doorwalls and decks. Year 'round recreation enhances this beautifully decorated home with extensive use of brick, stone, Italian tile floors. Basics include four bedrooms, private library, two fireplaces in living room and family room with brick wet bar, superb island kitchen with barbecue, Central Air. Bloomfield Hills schools. 646-6000 or 626-9100. \$224,900.



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BEACH AND BOATS on Walnut Lake just across street from this sharp 3 bedroom, 4 bath Ranch. Scenic canal runs along side of property. Fireplace family room, much more. 626-9100. \$78,900.



JUST AS LOVELY inside. Tastefully decorated 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home offers Lake Privileges with sandy beach, Life Guard. Plus fireplace family room, finished rec room, Central Air. 629-9100. \$92,900.



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LATHRUP VILLAGE. Executive Ranch has spacious rooms. Formal dining room, living room with big picture window, 21' family room, 48' finished rec room. Lovely setting. 557-6700. \$76,900.



LIVE IN TROY. Newly listed family Colonial offers family room with fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Sharp, nicely appointed. Summer fun on patio with gas grill. 689-8900. \$69,900.



VALUE in Troy. Two fireplaces in living and rec rooms with bar highlight this 3 bedroom Ranch. Plus remodeled kitchen, possible fourth bedroom, attic fan, newer Lennox furnace. 689-8900. \$56,900.



ROCHESTER. All brick 1 1/2 story with possible fourth bedroom, 3 full baths, rec room, most kitchen built-ins. An excellent location for a beautiful home. Just listed. 651-8850. \$69,900.



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