

## Joyce King

# Popular vote winner takes time to smell the flowers

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Joyce King, the Farmington Hills woman who has garnered more votes than any other one artist in polls of art patrons during Farmington Artist Club exhibits, is self-taught.

"I paint what I want to paint and I paint the way I feel," she said. "I got started on portraits because I thought I would like to paint my children."

Show-goers named "Swans," by Mrs. King, as their favorite in the November show. In the show last spring, the people's choice was "A Moment in Time" with a run-away vote.

Mrs. King began painting 12 years ago. Prior to that, she said, "The only person who thought I had any talent was my mother."

"The first real encouragement I ever got from a working artist was from Alice Nichols in an adult education class in town," Mrs. Nichols is a member of

Farmington Artists Club and a co-owner of Garret Gallery.

Area art show regulars are familiar with the paintings Mrs. King has done of all four of her children. Portraits of Carolyn, now 16, and Mary Ann, now 13, were both in the spring show.

Nine-year-old Stephanie and Adam, now 8, were the subjects for "A Moment in Time."

Her painting called "Adam at 7" took a first prize in the Michigan State Fair and was a runner up in the popular voting by local show-goers.

IT IS NOT surprising to her that realistic paintings are given the most votes by the public in the local shows.

"I think the man on the street, the lay person, has always preferred traditional painting," Mrs. King said. "There may even be a return to realism, especially if you saw the crowds



'A Moment in Time'

*'I see things better and clearer since I've started to paint. I do take the time to look at the shape of a tree, see how a flower is formed and see how the light is hitting it.'*

— Joyce King

at the John Singer Sargent Show (in Detroit Institute of Arts) this fall."

What is a bit surprising to her is that she has won so many awards and honors in a comparatively short period of time.

"I worried about being self-taught," she said. "I have gone out of my way to ask show judges if being self-taught would hurt when paintings were judged. But the people I asked always rattled off a whole string of quite

prominent artists who learned as I did, with very little, if any, formal training. "And it wasn't too long after that when some of my pieces began being accepted in the juried shows."

She counts her biggest thrill as the time she was invited to stage a one-woman show in the Governor's Mansion.

"My face was red-hot and my hands were ice-cold. I couldn't believe the in-



'Phil'

visitation was really addressed to me," she said.

"It was the same when I was told that 'Phil' (a portrait of the artist's brother) was accepted in the juried gallery of the November show."

"I was thrilled with that alone so you can imagine the state I was in when I learned it had won second prize."

MRS. KING describes her painting career as a parallel to taking time to stop and smell the flowers.

"That's not as trite as it might sound," she said. "I see things better and clearer since I've started to paint. I do take the time to look at the shape of a tree, see how a flower is formed and see how the light is hitting it."

Commissions come easy for Mrs. King and she is working on three of them now to have ready in time for Christmas giving.

"The only bad thing about that is that I am afraid it is going to cut into my teaching time, and I love teaching and I love my students," she said. She leads classes in Bellevue's Bentley Gallery and Livonia's Whitman Center.

"My husband, the children and the house come first and they always have," she continued. "But I always warn my students to watch for early signs of being so absorbed in their painting that they might break up a happy family's regular routine."

SHE RELATED her feelings at a Farmington Artist Club meeting she attended when the then-president, Edie

Joppich, publicly thanked the artists' husbands, wives and families for helping to make the club a success.

"My eyes watered a bit at that. We certainly all knew what she was talking about," Mrs. King said.

"My mother may have been my first supporter, time-wise, but my husband (Doug) backed me solidly from the beginning."

"There were many times when time had run away with me and he took over the entire household just so I could enter another show."



JOYCE KING



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## Christmas tree sale.

Even though the sign on the Christmas tree lot reads "Farmington Area Jaycee Sales" the salespersons on the day shift are all from Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC). Manning their posts on Grand River, east of Farmington Road, next to Burger King are Brenda Crawley (at left), Kelly Spencer and Jerry Kaufman. The Jaycees rotate for night

traffic for the sale which will benefit both the FAAC, which helps troubled young persons and their families, and the YMCA, now on the brink of opening its new Farmington Branch on Farmington Road, north of 12 Mile Road. Sale hours are from noon to 10 p.m. every day through Monday, Dec. 24. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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