



Artist renews his fight for legislative changes

By CORINNE ABATT

Bloomfield Hills artist Joe Maniscalco could label his recent efforts to change laws affecting artists as Act II, Scene I.

Maniscalco has been lobbying for changes in the way an artist's estate tax is levied as well as for allowing an artist to take a fair market deduction for the donation of his work of art to a charitable cause.

As the law now reads, an artist may deduct only the cost of materials if he donates a painting or other work of art to a non-profit organization. But if an artist dies, his works are taxed at full market value, even if they haven't been sold.

He pointed out that during one session of Congress when Gerald Ford was president, 24,000 bills were introduced and only about 550 were actually signed into law.

But the artist's cause continues to stay alive. After Maniscalco explained the problem to the legislative assistant, Brodhead drew up and introduced HB-2498 to allow an artist, literary figure or musician to take a fair market value deduction for donated works.

Rep. Richmond has covered the other base, the estate tax, in another new bill, HB-1720.

Both of these, Brodhead's office reported, are now before the House Ways and Means Committee.

A SPOKESMAN for Brodhead said the Congressman is working to get hearings on both of these bills within the next few months, adding that Maniscalco has agreed to testify at the hearings.

Maniscalco said that from his experience as an unofficial, volunteer lobbyist, he felt contacting the members of the House Ways and Means Committee was one of the most expedient ways to go about making legislative changes.

However, he doesn't discount making all legislators aware of the prob-

lem. "They will listen if enough people write," he says.

The local artist, known particularly as a portrait painter, has been speaking against laws affecting artists and contacting elected officials about them for several years. He led a protest on Kennedy Square in May 1978, in which a group of Michigan artists defaced their own art works.

Calls from artists' groups throughout the country have kept the Bloomfield Hills artist on the move giving speeches and conducting discussions on the proposed legislative changes.

A TRIP TO ARIZONA

this spring will provide him with another opportunity. When a group of artists in Arizona learned that Maniscalco would be coming to their area for a one-man show, they invited him to meet with them.

So he will drive out with the 35 paintings for the show at the Santa Cruz Art Association in Tubac, stop at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and, hopefully, do some serious sketching and painting.

Maniscalco has always wanted to paint Western scenes.

"As a kid, all I wanted to paint was cowboys and Indians," he said adding that one of his heroes was

a Western painter named Fecchin whose paintings are in the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Letters to congressmen, particularly the members of the House

Ways and Means Committee, Maniscalco said, are important to the cause and he is urging artists and those interested in the arts to make their opinions heard.

China painters show and sell

The China Decorator Guild's annual spring show will run from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 6, in St. John Episcopal Church, 115 South Woodward in Royal Oak. Members come from throughout the metropolitan area to put up for sale the finest quality of their works, such as the plate above created by Mary Patusky, whose specialty is painting poppies. Demonstrations will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donation is 50 cents, asked at the door.

Club Circuit

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, Farmington Branch, has nominated Phyllis Cummings for president. Other officers to be elected for two-year terms are Ellen Harper, first vice president, and Beverly Wicks, recording secretary.

Membership is open to all women holding at least a bachelor degree from an accredited institution. Membership inquiries will be taken by calling Carol Mizone, 591-0181.

FARMINGTON AREA NATURALISTS meet at 8 p.m. Monday, March 26, in Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Rd. The program, led by Carolyn McQuiggan, is called "Visiting a Coral Reef."

All programs scheduled by the club are open to all persons in the community who are interested in nature study.

Professor Betty Wagner, of Schoolcraft College, will lead an afternoon program called "Human Potential." Membership inquiries will be taken by calling Darlene Knight, 661-1848.

PHI MU SORORITY holds its Area Leadership Conference March 30-April 1 in Detroit Airport Hilton. The biennial conference is one of five in the country on chapter programs and policies. Farmington residents who are alumnae who will be in attendance are Joyce Blison, Nancy Dittmar and Colleen Wilkins.

Farmington resident collegiates who will be in attendance are Kelli Bowen and Rosie Lindburg. Conference activities will include officer training and discussions to share ideas with collegiates and alumnae from eight neighboring states.

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