

Think green—color it spring

By CORINNE ABATT

Painting with one color for eight weeks might strike some people as boring. But, when the color is green and the class is held in the middle of Michigan's spring, there's a promise of good things to come.

"Think Green—Color it Spring," is part of the Cranbrook P.M. series. It will be taught by Birmingham painter Camille Harbeck for children ages 10-14.

With an artist-teacher who's deeply involved in the study and exploration of color, this introduction to monochromatic painting should be provocative. Chances are that none of the works completed in the eight

classes, 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays, will have any traces of a single, pure color.

Mrs. Harbeck, who feels that color theory is one of the neglected areas in the teaching of art, said, "I stress the traditional. It's hard to find teachers who teach traditional work. I'm a firm believer in fundamentals."

THE FUNDAMENTALS aren't as awesome as they might sound. Her basics include building an identity through art, not being afraid to express oneself and intellectualizing about art.

So, the stress will be on developing awareness in several areas — of

art as a part of history, of color and form, and primarily of self.

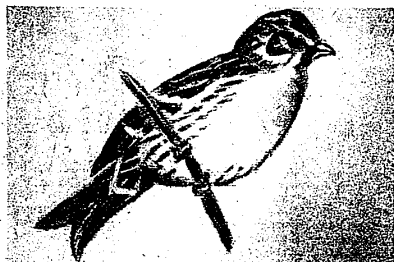
During the eight weeks, Mrs. Harbeck will introduce her students to the value of economy — that it's not necessary to have elaborate equipment to do a pleasing painting, that one sheet of drawing paper can serve many purposes and that a lot can be done through an understanding of positive and negative space and the interaction of one line and one color tone with another.

"When I work with children," she said, "concepts are more important than objects. That isn't to say they won't go home with something, but I want to elevate their perception to a higher level."

THE STUDENTS in "Think Green" are very likely to come away with the beginning of an understanding of the influence of the Bauhaus and the art of pre-war Germany. Mrs. Harbeck also plans to show slides illustrating how master painters used monochromatics in their work.

The class fee, \$45, includes materials. Mrs. Harbeck said she will prepare a booklet on the material covered in class for each student to keep.

The class will be held at Cranbrook/Vaughn school, 1660 Vaughn, Bloomfield Hills. For information on how to register, call 645-3635.



Drawing of a bird, displayed in Ms. Harbeck's studio, was done by one of her students, Patricia Waggoner, 15. Pineapples are another favorite still life subject and can be done using shades of green. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

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