

Sketching in pen and ink taught by versatile artist

Fran Nicholson describes watching a line of black ink develop into a piece of art "as like magic."

Her knowledge about art, her background and sharing her talent has

Bridal gowns of yesteryear on display

"Bridal Gowns from Yesteryear" is the special exhibit on display in Plymouth Historical Museum, which remains through July 31.

The gowns cover the period from the 1850s through the 1940s and includes items of a trousseau from the early 1890s.

The museum is at 155 S. Main Street and is open Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Special educational tours may be arranged in advance by calling the museum, 455-8940. Admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for youth and 25 cents for those from 5-11 years.

made her one of the Farmington Community Center's most popular teachers. Visitors to Farmington Community Library saw her work there during the month of March when she was named Farmington Artists Club's "Artist of the Month."

Her next session of "Sketching in Pen and Ink" runs from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Farmington Community Center, on Tuesdays beginning April 15.

Students will learn the aspects of dimension, perspective, realism, pointillism, as well as the pen and ink techniques for texturing trees, walls and wood, landscape and still life.

"No prior art experience is required," she said. "The ability to draw can be important, but it can be developed. Age is no barrier to interest or success. I had a 12-year-old in my last class who did a beautiful job."

Students will complete one pre-outlined sketch in each session as they learn one of the many strokes necessary in each lesson.

The ninth, and final session, is devoted to matting the student's favorite piece.

MRS. NICOLSON'S background runs the gamut from a University of Detroit business degree to classes in commercial and graphic art at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

She veered away from commercial art she said, "because I prefer to please myself artistically rather than follow a client's perception of what I should create."

She professes to have an exact mind and has discovered that pen and ink sketching, because of its controlled quality, lends itself to that exactness.

"One associates abstract art with freedom of expression, but my drawings also allow freedom, but in a controlled manner," Mrs. Nicholson said.

Her current artistic endeavor combines the use of color with her drawing, through the use of silk screening.

"The transparency of watercolor adapts beautifully to the black and white format," she said.

Her work includes oils, silk screens and watercolors as well as pen and ink sketching, which was showcased during her one woman show in the library.

Her next one-woman show runs from May 3-15 in Detroit's Mucell Studio Gallery, across from the Renaissance Center, and she is also a contributor for Farmington Artists Club Spring Show and Sale.

The local club's sale is set for a three-day run, April 24-26, in Mercy Conference Center in Farmington Hills.



Fran Nicholson, an artist who works in pen and ink, oils, silk screen and watercolors, zeros in on pen and ink sketching for spring classes in Farmington Community Center beginning April 15.

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