

**Spring show runs April 24-26**

**These paintings marked NFS**

By LORAINNE McCLISH

sales made during Founders Festival.

Farmington Artist Club members expect to have about 1,500 pieces of original art up for show and sale during their spring exhibit this month, but 10 select pieces will be marked NFS, known to artists and art shoppers as Not For Sale.

The NFS pieces are the contributions from the artists themselves, who give one of the best representations they have of their work to support the Farmington Art Foundation.

"We ask for 10 pieces every year and we always get 10," said Leslie Zimmerman, this year's chairman of the event that raffles off the art work during the exhibit.

"The raffle is the single biggest fundraiser we have for the foundation," she said. Some additional money comes from donations and some come from

FARMINGTON ART Foundation was established as a service arm of the Farmington Artists Club in 1973 for the purpose of increasing its members' opportunities to offer community service on as large a scale as possible.

It now underwrites the senior adult painting classes that run year around in The Gathering Place, and the Picture Lady Program that runs throughout the school year in nine elementary schools.

In each instance, members of Farmington Artist Club lend their manpower and know-how to make these programs go.

In The Gathering Place, members volunteer on a rotating basis to demonstrate their art and assist the student painters with a particular art medium or talent.

In the Picture Lady Program, members are assigned to each school exposing the youngsters to the presence of fine art through portfolios of pictures and information. This program started in 1974 by Alice Nichols, one of the original trustees of the foundation, and is carried on this year by Nancy Medoff.

THE PAINTINGS that will be raffled off this spring are a mixture of high quality watercolors, oils, acrylics and wood collage.

Gus Lassen, whose work can always be seen in the Detroit Institute of Arts rental galleries, is donating a painting this spring, "because I felt guilty that I never gave one before. I won't be showing in the spring exhibit," he said, "but I wanted to make sure I at least contributed."

Others echo the sentiments of Hilda Eckel, a regular contributor to the raffle. "I haven't missed a year giving something for the foundation," she said.

Show time is Friday through Sunday April 24-26 in Mercy Center's formal reception room. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The drawing is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, but attendance is not necessary to win. Art club members are out hawking tickets now and the tickets are sold at 50 cents each or three for \$1 during the show hours.

PRIZE MONEY for the spring exhibit comes from the Farmington Area Arts Commission in cooperation with Michigan Council for the Arts and Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington.

And the club is backed up with donations from a host of community-minded local merchants.

Lou Mahlin, owner of Art Alcove on Grand River in downtown Farmington, will donate the gift certificate to the first place winner of the Artists Choice Award. This voting comes from the artists themselves who vote for their favorite work in the show. Nelson's Custom Picture Framing Company, in Livonia, donates several paint sets to be awarded to the Popular Vote Winners and the Artists Choice.

The Popular Vote Winner is chosen by guests who attend the show.

Fash Home Center in Livonia donates a gift certificate. Ray Boujoulain Contemporary Trophies gives an engraved silver bowl for the first place winner in the show's juried gallery.

In addition to the juried gallery, the show features an open gallery and a budget section of unframed works.

JUROR THIS time around is Ray Fleming, co-owner and director of Robert L. Kidd Associates Galleries in Birmingham.

He is a painter who works in both watercolors and acrylics. He has taught in Kingswood School and has served as a department chairman at Mercy College in Detroit. He is a part-time instructor for Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association.

Fleming was most recently represented in an exhibition called "Watercolors by Six Michigan Artists" organized by the Jesse Besser Museum in Alpena.



The exquisitely and delicately executed "Coryopsis and Zinnias" is the work of watercolorist Gus Lassen given as a contribution to the Farmington Art Foundation. Lassen is a former employee of the Detroit News who turned to painting as a full-time career after his retirement.

In addition to artists Lassen and Ms. Shiemann, Marie Robertson, Jane R. Eckel, works to be raffled off this month come from Marcia Bopp, Rachel Resnick, Anne K. George, Dorothy Zimmerman. Admission to the April show is free.

**Staff photos by Randy Borst**



Hilda Eckel, a past president of Farmington Artists Club, donates a small winter scene to perpetuate the work of the foundation. Ms. Eckel has taken to painting oil miniatures to accommodate art patrons who live in small apartments with little wall space.



"Still Life Seen as Design," is the contribution from Marcia Bopp (at left) and an untitled painting of watercolor and India ink is to the gift to the foundation from Leslie Zimmerman. Mrs. Bopp is holder of the "Award for Drawing Excellence" given

in 1977 when she was a student at Oakland Community College. Ms. Zimmerman is this year's chairwoman of the raffle that keeps Farmington Art Foundation solvent.

**ENERGY.**  
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**Search is on for new Miss Michigan Venus**

By LORAINNE McCLISH

The Miss Michigan Venus USA Pageant is set for Wednesday, June 25, on Canton's Center Stage, when Mary Morton will turn over her crown and title to the young woman who will reign through 1981.

The blond-and-blue-eyed Farmington resident's experience through the past year has been "very typical of what happens to our winners as well as some of our runners-up," said Cynthia Guenther, who is heading up the pageant for the fourth year. "She's affiliated with Wilhelmina now (a top modeling agency in New York) and has done a lot of television commercials. Matter of fact, she's in the Silhouette commercial that's running now," Ms. Guenther said.

Entries for the pageant are being accepted now from young women between the ages of 17-28. Contestants must never have been married and must be either a resident of Michigan or attend school here.

No talent is required. Entrants are judged on beauty alone.

"THE PAGEANT is given for women who want to pursue careers in modeling, television and show business. We're looking for beauty, poise and grace. The pageant opens doors for the contestants to meet celebrities and important people in show business," Ms. Guenther said.

"Anita Bryant, Debbie Reynolds and Linda Carter all got their foot in the door through beauty contests."

The new Miss Michigan-Venus USA will automatically be a part of the Ford Auto Show traveling circuit and she will also be working with the Soupy Sales Telethon for the Mentally Retarded in November.

"Those two things are definite, but there are other outlets for her not completely cemented down yet," Ms. Guenther said, adding that part of her job as pageant director is "to hustle getting the new winner out and around and seen" through the year.

"Don Vargo (of Vargo's in Livonia) gave us a just-for-fun party and let us use his restaurant for our (pre-pageant) interviews last year, and he's going to offer us the same this year," Ms. Guenther said, "for no other reason than that he knows this is a very prestigious, as well as strictly legitimate, pageant."



Mary Morgan, title holder of the Miss Michigan Venus Pageant, reigns through the end of June, when the new title holder will be named.

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