

Sculptor adds dimension

By CORINNE ABATT

When Reba Pintzuk walks into her studio on the lower level of a building in Beverly Hills, she becomes transformed.

No longer is she wife, mother of two adult daughters, pleasant conversationalist and arts booster. In that quiet atmosphere of shelves, work table, wax models, sculptor's tools and a few choice pieces of her work, she is all artist.

"I walk in here," she said, stopping her work on a small abstract in wax soon to be cast in bronze, "and I feel I become a different personality."

"When I'm here working, I don't think about anything else — dinner or phone calls or groceries. I don't even feel tired until I stop working."

Even when her children were small, Mrs. Pintzuk never felt comfortable working at home. She tried it when she was a children's clothing designer, but she didn't like it and swore she'd never do it again.

And if quality and recognition can be related to pleasing work space, then this studio is terrific.

Examples of her sculpture will be in the exhibit and sale by the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors at Somerset Mall, June 12-21.

SEVERAL OF HER pieces are in the show of the Birmingham Sculptors Guild at Troy Art Gallery in the Troy of Troy through June 21. In fact, Mrs. Pintzuk sold her largest piece to date in that show.

"I really enjoy doing big pieces, but it's expensive to cast big pieces — especially on speculation."

Recalling that she has been attending art classes or one sort of another since she was 10, she said, "I didn't get serious until I moved here and went to Arts and Crafts (now the Center for Creative Studies)."

She graduated from Wayne State

University with painting and graphics as the main interest. When she went to qualify for graduate work, she was told her background was light in the three-dimensional areas.

"I took a sculpture course and immediately felt at home."

She remembered that one of her painting and drawing teachers had once commented that her paintings had a "remarkable sculptural quality."

At the moment, she is taking stone carving from Hugh Timlin at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association because she said she needs to understand that in order to fully master her art.

Gradually, she has found herself moving away from representational. At first, her work was a kind of abstracted representational. Her newest pieces clearly show her growing interest in abstract forms.

ALTHOUGH THIS ORIGINALLY seemed contradictory to her philosophy that people should be able to relate to her art, a strange thing happened.

She submitted two models for large outdoor pieces in the competition for mall sculpture on Lafayette in Detroit.

Her two models were among the 40 selected to be exhibited at the Detroit Artists Market. She didn't win the competition, but she did learn that people seem able to relate to her abstract works as well as to representational, perhaps even better.

"When I prepare a model for a large piece," she said, "I have the environment in mind and I have people in mind."

In recent years, she won the first prize in sculpture at the Scarab Club's Silver Medal exhibition, a cash award at the Hartland Art show as well as first prize in the same show.

She is a consistent award and honors winner in shows and was invited to be in the anniversary group show in Womanart Gallery in New York City

next fall.

Even when not preparing for a show, she may be in her studio more than 20 hours a week. She likes what she does, sculpture suits her and her painting background gives that extra something that aids in line, design and sense of proportion.

Somerset Mall, Coolidge at Big Beaver, is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Others from this area who will be exhibiting in the Somerset Mall show are Charlotte Evans, watercolor; Mary Jane Bigler, teacher, painter and traveler; Beverly de Gaetano, who painted in the Andes as she traveled there; Elizabeth L. Dulmage, fashion artist and painter; Jean Terague Hassall, world traveler who paints ancient sites; Eliene Schenkel, scenes of her early life in Cornwall, England; and Eve Szilagi, Tris Miller and Rita Skoczen, all of whom do still lifes as well as figures.

Joe Maniscalco was the judge, and Margaret Kelleher and Francis Waring are chairmen of the exhibit.



Reba Pintzuk has worked in many areas of the arts, but sculpture is where she feels most comfortable. The abstract in the center of her work table is the model for an outdoor piece that was entered in

the Lafayette mall competition in Detroit. It was intended to be a work of art that people could touch, walk around, sit on and relate to. (Staff photos by Stephen Cantrell)

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