

Thursday, June 26, 1980

(F)18

Corinne Weissman

A universality of emotions

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Corinne Weissman says she finds something beautiful in every face she sees.

"Sometimes it's embarrassing; those times when I find myself staring," said the artist whose work now hangs in the

'I feel most of us are artists. Making a dress, baking a chocolate mousse, playing the piano, as long as there is a frenzy, a possession, a need.'

— Corinne Weissman



This pastel is the portrait Corinne Weissman has titled "I Understand."

Quiet Room of Farmington Hills Library. But she may stare just as long at the bending of a tree, or a stately building.

As she draws just the tree or the building without the accompanying landscape, so she draws the face, without adornment.

As a result, there is a universality viewers find in the bearing of that face, reflecting any number of their own emotions.

Probably the best example of this in the current one-woman show which remains in the library through the month is the portrait titled "I Understand."

Though some of the faces Mrs. Weissman has put on canvas can not properly be called portraits, "I Understand" was created after a young girl Mrs. Weissman knows suffered a big disappointment.

While the adolescent is saying "I understand," the mixed emotions of frustration and the possibility that it is not really so comes through in the painting.

MRS. WEISSMAN, born in Romania, lived in Israel for a while, studied in France and the U.S., which has been her home since 1958. As a result, she can speak five languages.

When, as a child, her family was preparing to escape the communists and were allowed to take with them only 20 pounds of belongings, she chose one item — her watercolors.

She is not haunted by those times because material things have never meant much to her, she said, and neither does winning awards for her work. "I worship life," she says. "I love the

dew on the morning grass and I have been known to immerse my face in a tree of lilacs. I love the sunsets and the sunrises behind the walnut tree in my yard," the Birmingham resident said.

"I also enjoy spending time with a few special people with whom doing nothing is a joy."

The artists says she cannot paint "perfect" beauty and still life bothers her.

"There is no such thing in life as perfect," she says. "I love to do faces, trees and buildings, the character in all of them."

"I feel most of us are artists. Making a dress, baking a chocolate mousse, playing the piano, as long as there is a frenzy, a possession, a need."

This process of creating is as intense as giving birth. It is a total happiness, different from going to a party, watching a movie or acquiring a new dress."

MRS. WEISSMAN's name was on the Farmington Artists Club's waiting list for three years before she became a member of that group. She is also affiliated with Birmingham-Bloomfield Artists Association, Fadedette and Brush Club and Visual Arts of Livonia. She is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University of Ohio, and took graduate studies at University of Wisconsin, then additional studies at BBAA.

"I've been taking classes for years at the BBAA," she said. "It's my second home, not only in terms of the time I spend there, but because of the atmosphere and the people."

"At the BBAA we're allowed to 'be.' There's a lot of magic in that word."



Corinne Weissman, a Birmingham resident and member of Farmington Artists Club, shows her work in the Quiet Room in Farmington Hills Community Library, 32737 Twelve Mile Road, through the end of the month. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Teen Activities Center opens

By SANDI HORNE

The Farmington Summer Activities Center is opening again this summer at a new location, to provide a place for area teens to drop in or take part in some of the fun planned for summer evenings.

The program runs for seven weeks, from June 30 until Aug. 13, with a field trip planned every Tuesday, in Shawassee Recreation Center, on Shawassee, between Nine Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

All Farmington area teens, ages 13-17, are welcome to take advantage of the program, open Monday through Friday, from 4-6 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. There is no charge for all of the activities or trips.

All teens, however, must have a signed permission slip before taking part in any of the activities.

THE CENTER has a new director this time around — Darrell Emerson, a teacher in Livonia, who will be working with three college students, Robert Tompson, Bryan Gilbert and Florence Dennis.

Their schedule of field trips this summer begins with a roller skating party, followed by a day in Detroit, a trip to Oakland Wavepool, some canoeing, horseback riding and winds up with a parent-teen day in Tiger Stadium.

Activities within the center include parties, movies, ping-pong, pool, basketball games, pinball, arts and crafts and an open gym. Refreshments will be available for sale in the center.

Following tradition of past summers, the center operates on a drop-in basis. Teens are welcome to drop in, listen to music, have a pop or just say hello.

Equipment for the center such as the pool and air hockey tables and the pin ball machines are for the most part on loan from members of the community.

ANNE STRUBLE, head of the committee in charge of the center which is sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance, said more such equipment could be used.

"With so many kids out of work, we're expecting a larger turnout than last year," she said. "So we'll be needing a lot of equipment."

Those who can loan any item that could be put to use by the teens are asked to contact Farmington Youth Assistance, 476-3840.

Ms. Struble believes the new location for the center will better serve the purpose than the previous location at William Grace Elementary School.

"The building won't be prepped for school so we can place the basketball nets higher for the teens as an example," she said.

The center is financed by United Community Services, the city of Farmington and city of Farmington Hills.

Even so, with the teens expected to come in greater numbers this summer, Ms. Struble foresees the possible need of fund-raising activities.

"Contributions are welcomed," she said. "We had an average of 90 teens come to the center every day last year. The bus provided for the field trips overflowed with kids every week."

Music festival director prays for clear skies

By KATHY PARRISH

Weather never used to matter much to Stuart Hyke.

One year as Meadow Brook Music Festival managing director changed all that. Now it makes him really jumpy.

"It's amazing what weather can do to you," explained the Rochester resident, whose radio background didn't prepare him for the big part nature plays in an outdoor concert.

While enthusiastically kicking off Meadow Brook's 17th season this week, there are all those memories of last year. Like singer Joan Baez canoeing down a flooded Detroit expressway and Bill Cosby fans huddled together during one of the summer's worst rainstorms.

"I expected to see them washed into the pavilion," recalls Hyke. "A year like last one and you can really end up taking a bath."

And Meadow Brook Music Festival did. Only 150,000 of a projected 175,000 concertgoers showed up. Despite quick belt-tightening measures, the 1979 season came up \$50,000 short, bringing the

festival's total deficit to \$100,000.

"There was just awful weather," explained the managing director, who estimates cold or rain can cost the Avon Township attraction 1,000 to 2,000 listeners at \$5 and \$6 each.

"THE MARGIN that makes a concert successful or not is the number of people who sit on the lawn. And most — to my chagrin — don't buy tickets until they see what the weather is," Hyke explained.

Operating on the "assumption there will be some rotten weather each series," he is shooting for 170,000 attendance this year. Eighty-five percent of his budget comes from ticket sales and 15 percent from donations.

"It's a frightening task. When we start the year we don't have a cent in the bank. If everything goes well and the weather stays good it all turns out all right. It's a little dicey," he admits.

One goal is to do away with the \$100,000 deficit, which Hyke contends

(Continued on Page 2B)

SALE

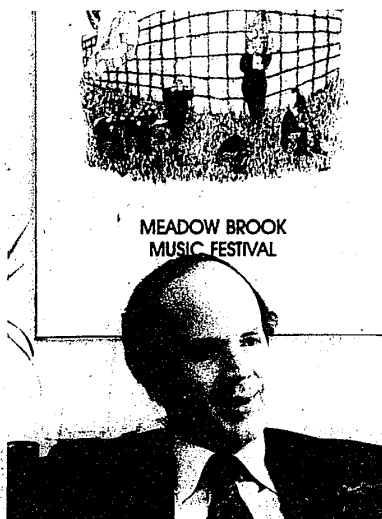


33-50% off*
our entire
spring and summer collections
including accessories,
and a terrific selection of shoes
from joan and david at 25-50% off*
sale on now!

limited quantities only no rainchecks not all sizes in all styles
*off our original prices this season. Intermediate price reductions may have been taken prior to this sale.

ann taylor

new york boston chicago washington los angeles connecticut new jersey



MEADOW BROOK
MUSIC FESTIVAL

Stuart Hyke, Meadow Brook Festival managing director, wants to keep the faithful audience of past years happy and still change enough to attract new people to attend the events at Baldwin Pavilion. (Staff photo by David Frank)