Gallerie Lacks Space But Not Spirit

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Recognition is the motivating factor. After a year, the 12 artists-owners of Gallerie 12 in Plymouth have the feeling that their cooperative venture will stay open. Each artist is entitled to one-twelfth of the

space in the tiny 6x25 gallery on Penniman Avenue.

Each artist-owner shares in the work, and each has been required to dig into his own pocket for a share of the working capital to pay the bills.

Dave McIntyre, business manager and one of the owners of the gallery, says that

when the shop first opened in September 1968, the financing was on a month-to-month basis.

HOW DID this all start?

Mcintyre says that he learned that the space was available for rental and that the shortage of space kept the price low enough so that it was economically feasible.

He contacted six fellow Ford Motor Co. employes who were also artists and asked them if they would be interested.

The next call went to a neighbor, Virginia Barc, who was also interested. She contacted members of the Livonia Artist Club and six more prospective owners were found.



THEIR OWN GALLERY -- Artists-owners' of the Gal-lerie 12 discuss their stock, From left (counter-clockwise)

Caroline Dunphy, one of the original 12, says that the first meeting of the group was interesting. "There were two groups of six who knew each other, but we didn't know any of the other six, and they didn't know us," she explained.

WHY DID THE GALLERIE come into

WHY DID THE GALLERIE come into existence?
"Every artist dreams to have an outlet for his work," says Mrs. Barc.
Mcintyre explains that "sales become important to an artist because this is a measure of the work's worth. An artist likes to sell things as proof of his own ability."
McIntyre says that the group is not interested in a strictly commercial gallery, but hopes to serve as an art service also. "We could be a commercial operation and show a profit, but not be artists," he says. "What each artist is trying to do here is to maintain his artistic integrity and sell what he feels is art."

Paintings are chosen by the artist himself as there is no selection of what will hang in the Gallerie by the other art-ists.

"The artist puts a price (the range is from \$1.50 up) on his work and the Gallerie tries to sell it," says McIntyre.
Once a sale is made, \$0% of the price goes to the artist, while the gallery operation keeps 20% for overhead costs.

SINCE THE GALLERIE has no em-SINCE THE GALLERIE has no employes, the owners split the hours among themselves to man the shop. This means that the shop hours (noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday evenings) are split up among the artists.

Mrs. Barc, Mrs. Dunphy and McIntyre all live in Livonia as do two other members of the co-op. Connie Wagenschutz and Bill Harler McGregor of Garden City: Janet and Walter Heintz of Westland; Joyce Hood of Plymouth and Klem Dysarz of Huntington Woods.

How did Dysarz become involved? He's

How did Dysarz become involved? He's an artist friend of McIntyre's from Ford.

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