

600 paintings equal challenge

Story: CORINNE ABATT
Photos: DICK KELLEY

Doing 600 paintings at one crack would boggle the mind of most people, but the task was a fascinating challenge to Marilyn Schechter.

A contemporary artist from West Bloomfield with a studio in Farmington, Mrs. Schechter treasures the experience of making 600 7-by-7-inch paintings last summer.

They were done free of charge to be included as a part of a subscription art package which The Alternative Press of Grindstone City sends out three times a year for \$15.

Mrs. Schechter volunteered to do the paintings after she heard a program by publishers Ken and Ann Mikolowski at the Detroit Library. She was impressed with their award-winning and select ventures into creative publications.

"THERE WAS no pay for it," Mrs. Schechter said, "I just did it because, professionally, it was a very exciting time to have done. Besides, 500 people

are going to receive one of my paintings. I was glad to contribute to it and I believe what they're doing is a wonderful, unique thing."

Mrs. Schechter painted the extra 100 for herself to give to special clients and friends.

She works in a contemporary style. The experiences she had while working for her master's in print-making at Wayne State University have stayed with her. She still is fascinated by paper even though she is now essentially a painter.

Each piece of paper used to make the hundreds of prints for distribution in the packets was embossed in her press. That design already established in the paper itself served as an inspiration on how the rest of each painting would go. Each was done with acrylic paint, colored pencil and rolled pieces of glazed clay.

The use of the clay, giving the small paintings a three-dimensional quality, marks the latest direction

which Mrs. Schechter's work is taking. "MY WORK IS pushing out," she said, "my paintings are almost reliefs." She doesn't foresee the time when sculpture will take the place of painting with her, however.

"Paper is part of me," she said, "I haven't turned to sculpture yet, because I don't want to give up paper." She gave up etchings and print-making about five years ago, switched her whole effort to painting. The limitations of print-making had begun to close in on her.

"I had to start painting," she said, "I just knew it was the right thing for me to do."

But, knowing it was right didn't mean that she was immediately pleased with her output. The five years have been a developing time for her, she said. And just recently has she felt comfortable showing her work.

Now that the 600 small paintings are completed and ready to be distributed, she said she has a great urge to do a

large, maybe huge painting. She tends to like to work large, but the one she anticipates may be the largest of all. SEVERAL THINGS immediately came to light once she began her work on the 600 paintings. She would work on many at the same time, but in different phases to avoid a production-line feeling.

"I worked on different aspects of all of them at the same time," she said, "I threw out 50. You see the exciting thing to me is that everything feeds into everything else."

She said she began with a clear idea of her approach to the work and what the paintings would look like and quickly changed her mind.

"These are completely different than what I envisioned," she said. Another revelation was the joy and excitement she found in working with clay. Even the glazing became an exciting part of the total project.

The company is located at 3090 Copeland Road, Grindstone City, 48467.

Thursday, October 16, 1980

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Share honors

Mike Saver (at left) and Tony Deshaw shared honors when the two took the Presidents Trophy as the golf tournament wound up this season at Farmington Country Club.

Artists invited to apply for residency positions

Michigan Council for the Arts is seeking experienced, professional visual artists and craftspeople to work in its Artist in Schools program. The program, funded jointly by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts, places professional artists in public and non-public Michigan schools (kindergarten through 12) for residency of varying lengths.

Visual artists and craftspeople interested in being considered for the program should contact the MCA offices, 1200 Sixth Ave., Detroit 48226 or call 255-3717 for application forms. Closing date for receipt of applications is Nov. 28.

The areas of visual arts and crafts

include, but are not limited to, painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, graphics, design, photography, industrial design, fibers, ceramics, glass, woodcrafts, enamel, basketry and metalworking.

The primary aim of the Artist in Schools program is to give students and community members the opportunity of experiencing the visual arts and crafts by working with and observing practicing artists.

During the residency, the artist will be a resource and catalyst for residency participants rather than a member of the teaching staff. Artists will be provided time and facilities to create their own work.

Artists show in Adrian

Among the eight watercolorists invited to participate in the Second Watercolor Invitational at Adrian College were several area people.

They are Shariene Beck, Marilyn Derwenskus, William J. Mac Arthur,

Electra Stamelos and Margaret Murphy-Reed. The show ran through the middle of this month, and most of invited artists had been in the 34th Michigan Watercolor Exhibition at the Flint Institute of Arts.

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