

Art co-op helped launch young career

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Talent and education are really not enough says artist Gail Kaplan. A Farmington resident, Ms. Kaplan credits her experience at the Southfield Artists' Co-op with shaping her into a professional artist.

"Without the co-op, I just wouldn't be where I am now," she contends.

Ms. Kaplan, whose first one woman show opens at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Print Gallery is a watercolorist and ceramacist. The show will present both her clay and paintings and will be exhibited through the end of December.

"There's no problem being arty as a student, but the question is always:

"Can I do it fulltime?" she says.

"The co-op helped me develop the discipline to do my art as an eight hour a day thing."

Encouraged by Ralph Valatka and Ralph Richards of the Southfield Department of Parks and Recreation, Ms. Kaplan joined the co-op when it was in formation.

"I paid \$50 and this bought me the space I needed for a year. After I joined, someone donated a kiln and a wheel and I could do my clay as well as paint," she says.

"I lived at home (then in Southfield) and worked at the co-op. I even got a CETA grant for about four months and was paid for work I did there."

PRESENTLY she is lives in her own home in Farmington which gives her more space. "But the discipline I learned there came with me," she says.

Ms. Kaplan was born in Detroit. Her parents are Essie Rosenbloom of Southfield and the late Isadore Rosenbloom.

"My parents were always aware that I was artistic and by the time I was 6 or 7 I was in an art program at Cranbrook.

She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Michigan and has worked and studied at the Jewish Museum in New York and the Skirball Museum in Los Angeles.

Her work is in the collection of the Jewish Community Center and many

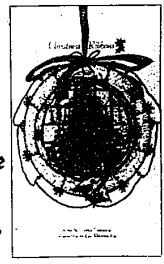
private collections. Previously, her paintings and clay pieces have been exhibited at the Arnold Klein, Rubiner and Rackham Galleries.

Contemporary Judaica and a wide range of subject matter are included in her paintings and ceramic pieces.

Ms. Kaplan is the recipient of the 1980 Artists in School Residence grant, awarded by the Michigan Council for the Arts. Her exhibit will open with a wine preview at 7 p.m. Wednesday evening. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays.

The Print Gallery is at 29203 Northwestern in Southfield.

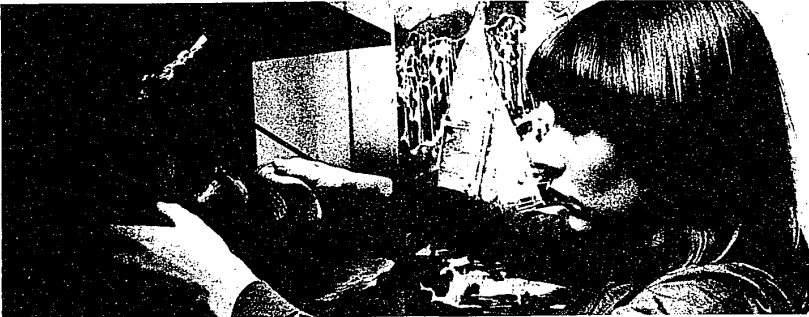
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Gail Kaplan shows off one of her clay pieces. Her work will be the subject of a one-woman show at the Print Gallery in Southfield.

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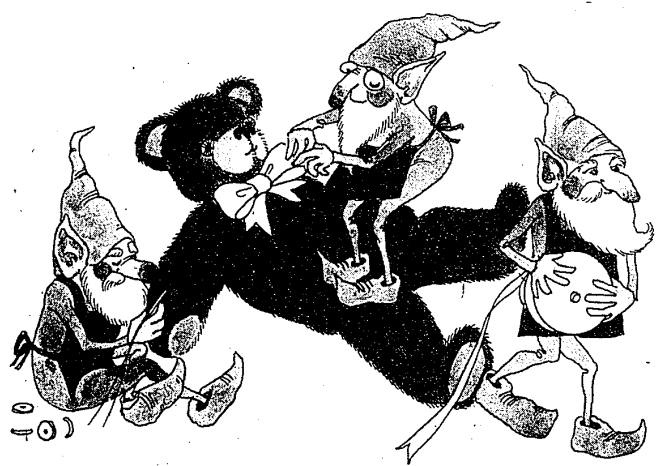
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Ho, for the store of hospitality,
Whose generous doors swing wide and free!
Whose guests, when the first snow crystals fall,
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To see Santa's elves busy as a bee!

The guests are known by their curious wiles,
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