

Monday, May 2, 1983 O&E

Artist molds her career in clay

By Tom Baer
staff writer

"Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan" reads the top line of the business card. "WORKS IN CLAY" says the next line. "She certainly does. And a tour of her home-studio in a Farmington Hills subdivision reveals works of art which do an excellent job of imitating life as it is lived in many a suburban split level. Some of the clay pieces, produced by Rosenbloom Kaplan in her basement workshop, look so real that they can't be distinguished from the everyday household items they resemble. Take that suitcase in the foyer, for

example. It could have been dropped there by the man of the house just back from a business trip. But no. Actually, it's "Samsonite Luggage," a hollow clay model covered with a glaze. "I want you to have a rapport with my pieces," said the 28-year-old Rosenbloom Kaplan, noting that the suitcase's handle swings back and forth. The house is well stocked with such household art. There are many kitchen utensils, scissors, an iron, a tissue box, a worn out shoe. "It (the art) makes you stop and think about the things you take for granted and re-examine your own values. I want you to think of the things

you use everyday . . . to make you aware of what you use."

ROSENBLOOM KAPLAN, considered an up-and-comer by some area art critics, recently exhibited 26 pieces at a private showing in Birmingham. The showing was successful: seven of the 13 advertised pieces were sold, and the artist got a number of potential commissions. Exhibited at the show were some of her favorite works including "Herbie's Briefcase," which was done on commission and was not for sale, and "Soup Tureen," which she hopes to enter in a contest.

The monogrammed briefcase, which looks slightly crumpled and has a Wall Street Journal sticking out of it, was done on special order.

"He carried it around for many years," said Rosenbloom Kaplan. "It really was an extension of his personality."

The soup tureen looks suspiciously like a gasoline can to be found in any suburban garage. But the protruding spout is really the handle of the soup ladle.

"Food (soup) is energy," said Rosenbloom Kaplan, who hopes the piece will win a prize in a contest sponsored by a soup company. "But today everybody's thinking of gasoline as energy. I thought it was an interesting concept."

An open tool chest with about 15 tools in and around it was also shown. "A tribute to my love" Rosenbloom Kaplan calls it.

"We all need them (the tools)," she said. "We all have them. We might not all appreciate them, but they get the job done."

BOB KAPLAN, husband of the artist, is a man who truly appreciates tools. He makes his living retailing hardware.

"I have zero artistic ability," he said. "I'm a supporter of the arts, not a creator."

Said the artist, "It really helps having someone in the (hardware) business. He's been really supportive."

Rosenbloom Kaplan grew up in Detroit and graduated from Henry Ford High School. She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree and a teaching certificate from the University of Michigan.

"I've always been artistic," said Rosenbloom Kaplan, who developed her talents by taking part in programs at Cranbrook and the Detroit Institute of Art.

Following graduation from U-M, she became artist-in-residence at the Southfield Artists Co-op. Her duties included administrative and repair work.

After the co-op job, she tried painting for a couple of years and then decided to devote all her energies to clay.

"Clay has not been considered 'art' until quite recently," she said. "Our museum (Detroit Institute of Art) made a major statement by inviting Wayne Higby, one of the leading ceramic artists in the country, to speak. He was very well received."

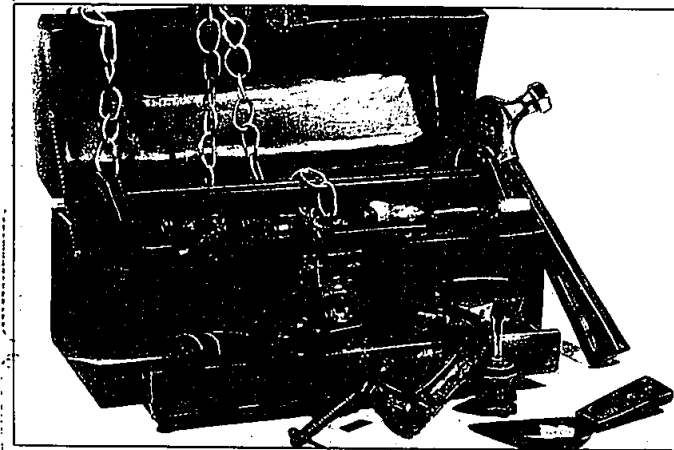
Right now Rosenbloom Kaplan is perfectly satisfied with the house-studio arrangement.

"I'm feeling very good about where I am now," she said. "But it's a lot of hard work. I've been working seven days a week, and I don't anticipate things changing."

If her success so far is any indication, things probably won't be changing.



Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan works in clay



"Tool Chest" — Tools may not always be appreciated, but they get the job done for Rosenbloom Kaplan.



"Soup Tureen" — Soup and gasoline are both forms of energy.

TREE SALE ORDER FORM			
Cost Per Tree	Name of Tree	Quantity	Total Cost
\$40.00	SMITH ASH		
\$3.00	NORWAY MAPLE EMERALD QUEEN		
\$3.00	EMERALD LOCUST		
\$2.00	RED SUNSET MAPLE		
\$3.00	CRIMSON KING MAPLE		
\$2.00	NEWPORT PLUM		
\$2.00	FLOWERING CHERRY (PINK)		
\$3.00	COLORADO SPRUCE		
\$2.00	NORWAY SPRUCE		
\$3.00	WHITE PINE		
	TOTAL		
\$10.00 Delivery Charge per person			
TOTAL COST			

MADE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FARMINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM GARDENS

MAIL ORDER FORM TO: MUSEUM GARDENS TREE SALE
2500 Liberty St.
Farmington, MI 48024

ORDER DEADLINE: MAY 11, 1993

(NAME) _____
(ADDRESS) _____
(CITY) _____
(PHONE) _____ (DATE) _____

Planting time

The Farmington Historical Museum Garden Guild is sponsoring a sale of the above trees at special rates. Proceeds from the project will benefit the Museum Gardens. The trees are prepackaged and shipped. Deadline for orders is May 11.

Arbor Day noted

The City of Farmington Beautification Committee celebrated National Arbor Day (April 21) by donating and planting a white pine tree at the Warner Museum on Grand River.

Arbor Day 1983 marked the 100th anniversary celebration of this day set aside each year to encourage community and individuals to plant trees and shrubs.

The white pine, donated by the beautification committee, was planted as part of the landscape design used by the museum Garden Guild to beautify the grounds. The guild is directed by KAY Blakesley.

The city beautification committee has donated a tree to the city on Arbor Day for many years, using funds from the sale of flowers and plants at the sale in May and the sale of T-shirts at the Founders' Festival.

This year's Flower and Plant Sale is scheduled for May 20-21, a Friday and Saturday. Geraniums, petunias, marigolds and many other flats of flowers will be available.

Funds raised by this project will be used to buy the flowers planted in the Farmington mini-parks along Grand River and Shawwassee.

Basket weaving class set

Large wood kindling baskets are the subject of Scott Smith's next three-session workshop at the Farmington Community Center.

Beginning Wednesday at 7 p.m., Smith will teach students the basics of basket weaving with an authentic-looking kindling basket as the final product. The session runs until 9:30 p.m.

The basket can serve a variety of purposes, including carrying wood. It also doubles as a decoration for the hearth.

Smith is a self-taught fiber artist involved in basketry for 10 years. He has developed his own style for combining non-traditional fibers into traditional basket forms.

Registration for this workshop may be made at the center, 24705 Farmington Road. The fee is \$25 plus materials.

Some other upcoming activities at the Community Center include:

- A "Just Desserts" workshop from 1-3 p.m. on May 10. Barb Dermody will demonstrate "Chocolate Fancy," a combination of strawberries and chocolate. Summer desserts for all occasions also will be featured when Dermody prepares a fresh fruit plan to take advantage of seasonal fruits. She'll also serve up some low-calorie desserts for dieters.

The \$9 registration fee includes detailed recipes and samples of desserts demonstrated.

- An apartment-style quilting workshop from 9:30-11:30 a.m. May 10-11.

Students will learn how to quilt by sewing machine, completing each separate piece before the final joining of shapes to form the quilt. Through this method, each piece is more durable than hand-quilted pieces and numerous variations in shape can be achieved. This type of quilting is called apartment style because it requires no frame, takes less time than hand quilting and is adaptable to working in small spaces.

The \$14 registration fee is payable at the center.

- A class in the Norwegian embroidery technique known as hardanger in a two-session workshop beginning May 17 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Hardanger is an open-work technique in which students learn Kloster blocks, removing threads and then needle weaving and sewing decorative stitches in the openings that are created.

Registration requires a \$12 fee payable at the center. For additional information on Farmington Community Center activities, call 477-8404.

SPECIAL EVENT DRESSING

PLEASE JOIN US, MAY 5TH
11 A.M.-3 P.M., BIRMINGHAM
FOR AN INFORMAL SHOWING

In preparation for one of your busiest social seasons, packed with weddings and graduations, we invite you to see our latest collection of special occasion dresses from our Designer and International Designer Salons. Our models will be throughout the store, showing you leading short and long fashions to fit every occasion on your calendar.



Jacobson's
BIRMINGHAM

Open a Jacobson's charge - there is no annual fee.

Open Thursdays and Fridays until 9:00 p.m. We will validate your parking ticket.