



Mini-jewels

Crib, doll quilts valued for rarity and beauty

By Corinne Abett
staff writer

While the big show of the World of Quilts at Meadow Brook Hall, Sept. 8-25 is going full blast, there will be a small gem of an exhibit a few minutes walk away.

Mary Silber of Birmingham, coordinator of this major quilt extravaganza, is showing the jewels of her own collection of crib and doll quilts in Knole Cottage.

This six-room house was built as a 12th-birthday present for Frances Dodge, Matilda Dodge Wilson's eldest daughter. The structure and all its furnishings are scaled to a little more than two-thirds normal size. Which means that if you are more than 5-foot-5-inches tall, you have to bend slightly to go through the doorways.

The Queen Anne style chair with Dutch marquetry, the stove, beds, wash basin, beds, tables —

Staff photos by David Frank

everything was made to accommodate a 12-year old.

CONSEQUENTLY, it's a unique, Lilliputian setting for Silber's wonderful collection of 25 doll and crib quilts dating from 1820 to 1940.

The demand for them, and concurrently the prices, in just the last few years, she said, "has increased phenomenally."

And with this has come "trickery," about which Silber issues a warning.

"They are cutting down perfectly good full-size quilts and selling them as crib or doll quilts," she said.

So, for collectors and would-be collectors, the Knole Cottage show is a learning experience.

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Lulu Cameron, artist/textile restorer, volunteered her help and expertise for the "World of Quilts" show. Here she is admiring one of the crib quilts in the bedroom at Knole Cottage.



Mary Silber, coordinator of the quilt show at Meadow Brook Hall, stands in the entryway to Knole Cottage where her personal collection of crib and doll quilts is displayed. On the wall is one of the treasures of her collection, "Deflectable Mountains," 1820-1840.

Rubiners celebrate 20 years with new location

By Corinne Abett
staff writer

Carole and Allen Rubiner, gallery owners, are starting their 20th year in business at a brand new location in West Bloomfield. Their gallery and framing business had been located in Royal Oak for many years.

For the official opening of the new gallery at 7001 Orchard Lake, just south of Maple, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 13, they will have an exhibit of gallery regulars both old and new.

Some of the new ones are West Coast artists whom the Rubiners have discovered on trips to that region. The most recent was this summer when they toured the wine country of northern California, attended exhibitions, visited museums

and many artists studios.

SOME OF the large pots in the gallery which have the soft, dull look of raku, are actually incredibly light stoneware with porcelain chips by Bill Ellis of California.

The craft section which the Rubiners opened in their other gallery several years ago is also included in the new location.

Among the regulars represented in the opening show who have been in the Rubiner stable for many years are painters William House, Aviva Robinson, Fritz Mayhew, Jeanne Tennant, Marjorie Hecht Simon and Nancy Thayer.

Mrs. Rubiner, a trained artist, recalled that their friendship with House, a painter from Grosse Pointe and member of the faculty of Center for Creative Studies, began when

she showed her paintings in his gallery. Now, with the roles reversed, the friendship continues.

SHE SAID they have about the same space as they did in Royal Oak, but the arrangement is considerably different. Architect Ken Newmann helped them plan the arrangement of the exhibit areas within the large open central area.

Mrs. Rubiner said of the Sept. 13

opening, "It will be more of a celebration than anything else," adding there will be live music with many of the artists present.

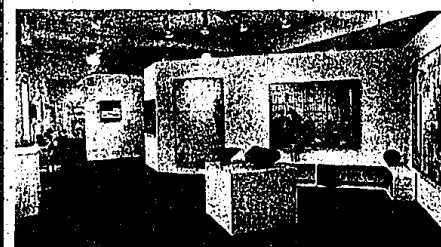
"The move," she said, "was a tremendous shot of adrenalin for us. It opens up new ideas and new horizons."

Major shows planned for the coming season include: Nancy Thayer of Southfield, paintings on handmade

paper, October; Glen Michaels of Troy, sculpture, November; and Fritz Mayhew of Birmingham, paintings, December.

The gallery, open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and until 5 p.m. Saturday, is at 7001 (on the east side) Orchard Lake, just south of the shopping center at Maple, West Bloomfield.

Staff photos by Mindy Saunders



Carole and Allen Rubiner, right, discovered that a new location was like a shot of adrenalin. The space and design are sleek and contemporary with a lot of natural light. Illustrated above is the interesting use of space for display in what was originally a single large room. The Rubiners will celebrate the new location and the beginning of their 20th year with a 6:30-9:30 p.m. reception Tuesday, open to the public.

