

# Qs and As on oft-asked art questions

This is another in a series of lessons on art and drawing by special columnist David Messing. He has taught for eight years and operates an art store, Art Store and More, 18774 Middlebelt, Livonia. Messing encourages questions and comments from readers. You may write him at his store or c/o Observer Newspapers, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington MI 48024.



By David Messing  
special writer

Did you ever notice how most men talk on the phone? There is quite a bit of "dead air" time, followed by short and to the point comments and then within minutes the phone is back on the hook.

I was on the phone for 10 minutes with my friend, Bob. My wife, noticing the time said, "Boy that's a pretty long conversation for you." She then began asking questions. "How are his girls

doing?" "Did he get his pool installed OK?" I said, "Gee... I didn't ask." Sandy follows with, "How's his wife doing? Is she still working at the bank?" I said "er... um... she's fine, I think and I don't know if she's still working." Somewhat puzzled, Sandy asked "Well what did you guys talk about?" By now wondering myself, I said "Just regular stuff... What's the deal, I'm not taking a test on this."

If you think I am a bit short on the phone you ought to see me write. After I write each Artifacts column, my wife takes a pen and adds a whole bunch of "ands" "therefore" and "however." I write about the way a student would take notes in a lecture class. But this article is right up my alley and that is, short questions and answers. Right to the point. Since I haven't been very regular about answering questions, I will from time to time, have one such as this to catch up.

**Q: What is a good beginning color assortment?**

**A:** This is a very popular question usually asked with regards to oils, acrylics or watercolor. There are, as one representative told me, about 135 names for 75 basic colors. Each company feels they have rightly named the color regardless of the confusion it

causes in the art stores. The best way to start is to forget the names. Look at the tube colors and pick the truest red, yellow, blue, orange, green, brown and violet. Add to this a white and a black and it's paintin' time.

**Q: Is it cheaper to stretch your own canvas?**

**A:** I never really figured it out but if you only paint a dozen or so paintings a year, it would be better to buy canvases already stretched. I do know that unprimed canvas is more expensive than primed. So by the time you pay for the canvas stretcher strips and paint on a gesso prime coat, you are actually paying more than for the pre-stretched. Also in with the canvas, gesso and the stretcher strips you must figure the required tools, which are made for stretching canvases, bands, gause, tetanus shot and aspirin.

**Q: What's the difference between oils and acrylic?**

**A:** Briefly stated "oils" are pigment suspended in an oil base and "acrylics" are pigment suspended in a resin or plastic base. Oil thins with turpentine and acrylics thin with water. Oils dry very slowly and acrylics dry within 20 minutes. As far as the finished product is concerned it is very difficult to distinguish between the two.

**Q: Are children under 10 too young for art lessons?**

**A:** Not at all. The main concern is interest. It is purely a waste of time and money to take any kind of lessons if a child's interest fades. One main goal for children under 10 is to learn to draw from photos or cartoons rather than drawing from their imagination.

Children from 8 to middle teens have many interests and it is exciting to see which of those interests will develop into an ability. I remember one girl would come to art lessons straight from her violin lesson. She also had on hoards under her dress because right after art was her modern dance class.

I also remember her driver, I mean her Mother, who usually just sat out in the car looking a little tired and kind of slumped over the wheel, waiting. I think it is very important to not spread yourself too thin, even children.

That's why we have open end classes at the Art Store. Especially needed for children. Their interests change so fast. Students just pay when they come and if they want to take for four to eight weeks or two years it's totally up to them. I think most parents can tell if their child has an interest in art or not. But to answer your question, 10 is not too young.

**Q: How important is a portfolio?**

**A:** A portfolio is everything. It is proof of what you can do. If you don't want to go to college, a good portfolio can land you a job. If you plan to attend college, decent grades and a good portfolio could earn you a scholarship. By the way, congratulations to Tom Gould and Lisa Rigstad, couple of our students at the Art Store, who won schol-

arships at Wayne State University.

**Q: What is the difference between "hot press" and "cold press."**  
**A:** Hot press and plate finish, mean a very smooth surface. Cold press, kid or vellum means a rough surface.

**Q: What paint is best for clothing and tee shirt etc.?**

**A:** Most paints sold for textiles or acrylic paints in one form or another. Liquitex which is the pioneer of acrylic painting recommends to ensure permanence in textiles, add one teaspoon of gloss medium per three oz. of paint. Another brand name specifically formulated for textiles is Decra. This paint is opaque and thins beautifully for air-brushing.

Well, I have a half a dozen more questions to answer but I have to call Bob back and see how his girls are doing and... his pool is installed yet... etc... etc.

## exhibitions

### OWENS ILLINOIS WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Friday, May 11 — Two touring exhibitions of contemporary art glass, organized by Habatat Galleries of Lathrup Village, will be on display through July 4 in the company's Fine Arts Gallery, Toledo, Ohio. This is the only time both exhibits will be at the same location. The National Contemporary Glass exhibit will be through June 2, followed by the International Contemporary Glass exhibit, June 7 to July 4. The Fine Arts Gallery is open daily 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., no admission charge. A book on the National exhibit by Fredinand Hampson will be available for purchase.

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Saturday, May 12 — "The Hess American Indian Collection" will be on display in the sanctuary through May 20. Included are Navaho rugs, photographic portraits along with beaded and woven pieces by the Crow, Blackfoot and Nez Perce tribes. The rugs date from 1910-1940. The church is at 1000 Cranbrook Road at Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. For information, call 646-4511.

### ROBERT L. KIDD ASSOCIATES

Saturday, May 12 — Sculpture by Gary Kolak, ceramics by John Donoghue, paintings by Doug Degeod and cast paper constructions by Tom Balbo will continue through June 9. Reception to meet the artists 3-5 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 107 Townsend, Birmingham.

### PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Saturday, May 12 — "Photomages '84" with all types of media using photographic images continues through June 10. Gallery talk on photography 3 p.m. Saturday, May 19. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 407 Pine, Rochester.

### HABATAT GALLERIES

Saturday, May 12 — "Show of Hands" and other works in glass by Mark Peltier continues through June 2. Reception to meet the artist 8 p.m. Saturday, 28235 Southfield, Lathrup Village.

### VENTURE GALLERY

Saturday, May 12 — Blown and sandblasted glass by K. William Lequer and graphics and jewelry by Natalie Paul continue through June 2. Reception to meet the artists 6 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, until 9 p.m. Friday, 28235 Southfield, Lathrup Village.

### DETROIT GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS

Saturday, May 12 — "Quilts and Basketry" includes works by 16 craftspeople. Opening reception 3-5 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 301 Fisher Building, Detroit.

### SOMERSET MALL

Monday, May 14 — "Quilts: An American Romance" continues through Saturday with an exhibit of 25 extraordinary quilts, 31 workshops and lectures, a 40-dealer market, a film and demonstrations. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday, until 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy. No charge.

### PIERCE STREET GALLERY

"Spectrum '84, Color Photographs by 10 Women Photographers" continues through June 10. Both straight color prints and hand-colored work are in the show. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 317 Pierce, Birmingham.

### AURA FINE ART

Area print collector Victor M. Zink is selling his collection through this gallery. Included are works by the 19th century German artist, Leonard Beck, etchings by Rembrandt, lithography by Karl Appel as well as pieces by Whistler, Rembrandt, Degas, Vasarely, etc.

ton and Marsh. Continues through May. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 20 S. Main, Clarkston.

### ART EXCHANGE

Low fire stoneware by Paulette Blok Krupnik will be on display through the month. Hours are 10:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, until 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 415 S. Washington, Royal Oak.

### MUCCIOLI STUDIO GALLERY

"Butterfly Watercolors" by Anna Muccioli and jewelry by Nate Muccioli continue through May. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 511 Beaubien, Detroit.

### DEGRAAF FORTSIE GALLERIES

New paintings by Chuang Che of Ann Arbor will continue through the month. Reception to meet the artist 6-9 p.m. Friday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 201 Nickels Arcade, Ann Arbor.

### LIRVING FELDMAN GALLERIES

Print retrospective by James Rosenquist will continue through June. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, until 8 p.m. Thursday, 6917 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

### CAROL HOOBERMAN GALLERY

Paper paintings and woven constructions by Nancy Albertson, decorated earthenware ceramics by Angelo di Petta and paper constructions by Paul A. Robbert continue at the gallery through the month, 155 S. Bates, Birmingham.

### GALLERY BIRMINGHAM

"Fashion as Art as Fashion" continues through May 28. This is an eclectic survey of work including antique, hand-colored fashion illustrations, original designs and sketches by Eric and Rosamond and jewelry by Eric. Informal fashion show at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17 to showcase some of Michigan's talented designers. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, until 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2335 Woodward, Birmingham.

### SUSANNE HILBERRY GALLERY

One man show by Italo Scanga should be a charmer. This internationally known artist works in both two and three dimensional art and tends to combine folk art qualities and a very sophisticated approach. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

### RUBINER GALLERY

Recent paintings by George Miyazaki continue through May 29. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 5 p.m. Saturday, 7001 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

### TOWN CENTER GALLERY

"Rhythm/Rhyme and Romance" is a Michigan premiere of lithographs of dance figures suspended in time and motion by Eileen Queney and lithographs of 19th century Parisian culture by Claude Welsch. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 3000 Town Center, Suite 45, Southfield.

### OAKLAND COUNTY GALLERY

Joint exhibition and sale by members of the South Oakland Art Association will continue through the month. The gallery is in the Oakland County Executive Building, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac.

### YAW GALLERY

Ceramics by Eva Kwong and Kirk Mangus will continue through the month, 820 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

### XOCHIPILLI GALLERY

Photographs by Detroit artist Misha Gordin envelop a rather strange world that seems to emanate from somewhere in the human psyche. This provocative show continues through May 26. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 588 N. Woodward, Birmingham.



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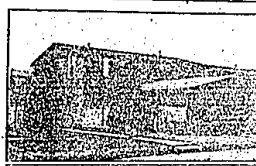
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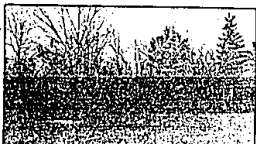
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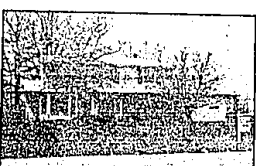
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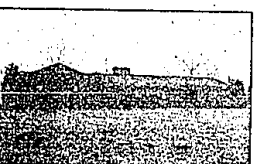
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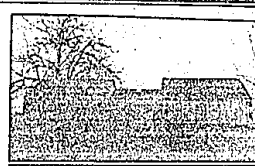
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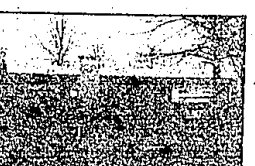
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