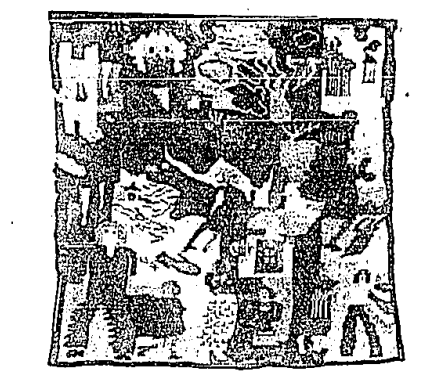


CAMILLE MCCOY/staff photographer

The china and crystal (above) are from Carol Hooberman Gallery of Birmingham. The scene (below) is a hand knitted wall hanging by Mario Rosa Lortet of France. It is part of a show which opens at the gallery Aug. 28.



Western fiction

Continued from Page 1

is eight to his death as an old man on Nov. 11, 1916.

The canvas the author draws on is vast but his strokes are fine and precise, never allowing one extra word to spoil the picture, never permitting one extra phrase to mar the view.

In the book's postscript the author

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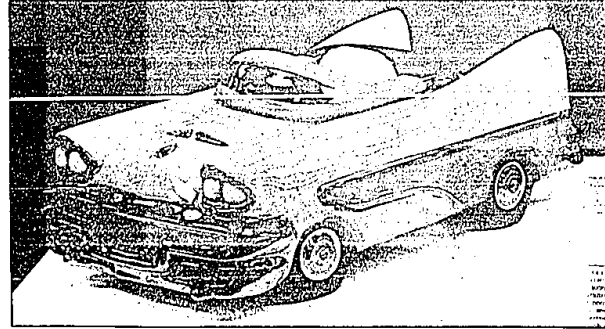
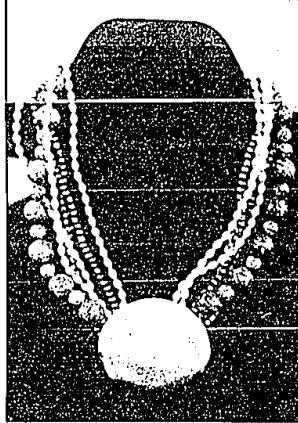
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RANDY DONST/staff photographer

The "Phatazoom" ceramic cookie jar by Glen Appleman is an exciting, functional one-of-a-kind at Ilona and Gallery of Farmington Hills. The necklace (left), also at Ilona and Gallery, is by Roz Balkin. The

disc is oxidized copper with mother of pearl, agate and fossils. Balkin studied at Center for Creative Studies and Wayne State University.

Functional art — just for fun

By Sarah E. McNeel
special writer

When mass production of the '60s became pop in the '80s, everything was great. Dishes were stacked perfectly and one mug was indistinguishable from the next.

If you liked what your neighbor had, it wasn't all that hard to keep up with the Joneses exactly to the T — or to the tea kettle or cup, for that matter.

Now in the '80s things quite noticeably have changed.

One-of-a-kind items have increased in value in the minds of most people. There is a desire for works that are handmade and represent a personalized touch — a uniqueness that allows for the sensation of owning something not readily available to everyone.

Purchasing this type of work brings individuality to a home. As a gift it is hand-chosen and reveals a desire to give something out of the ordinary, or even extraordinary.

THREE GALLERIES in the area contend that the handmade, one-of-a-kind item is worth setting up shop for.

Carol Hooberman Gallery in Birmingham, Ilona and Gallery in Farmington Hills, and the Art Exchange in Royal Oak all carry functional wares

that are hand-crafted.

The Carol Hooberman Gallery carries items from all over the United States and Europe. Strikingly different are the hand-knit wall hangings from France that Hooberman carries exclusively.

The Art Exchange in Royal Oak on Washington Avenue handles only Michigan artists and even represents student/professional artists for Oakland Community College just down the street.

Ilona and Gallery in Farmington Hills travels the country for artists' wares, especially to major shows in the west and southwest.

These galleries meet an increasing demand by the public, and they also provide for the artist to show and sell; furthermore, they give artists a good reason to produce.

JEWELRY, which is no longer costume, is highly original and chic because the designs and concepts go way beyond department store racks.

For example, who would think painted tin cans could become the rage at Carol Hooberman Gallery?

At Ilona and Gallery you can find python bracelets, enough to make your skin crawl. But despite the connotation,

they are very beautiful. Large stones or beads are the rage, but how much more distinctive to have them of semi-precious stones, also at Ilona and Gallery.

Fused glass earrings, indistinguishable material and a molten of color are plentiful at The Art Exchange.

The ideas for gifts at these galleries are endless.

Carol Hooberman Gallery held June as a special month for the bride and groom, "an alternative to the toaster oven." In Royal Oak's Art Exchange a bridal registry is going to be put into effect.

Ilona and Gallery is arranged in four categories, as the owner Hirschel Levine explained: 1) interior decoration, 2) gifts, 3) jewelry, 4) clothing.

Ilona's attempt is to bring in realistically priced pieces. "Why should they be high-priced? We don't try to sell art as an investment, that would be a mis-

representation. People pretty much just enjoy what they buy here," Levine said.

CAROL HOOBERMAN referred to the importance of something bought out of sheer appreciation for the work. As she said, "Have things you love and appreciate around. Instead of an intent to sell off later as an investment."

Dawn Bibby gallery director at The Art Exchange, has noticed "the public wants a one-of-a-kind piece; they want to give something one-of-a-kind as a gift."

All three galleries carry ceramic pieces, from earthenware to porcelain, glass pieces, such as wine goblets, vases, fiber hangings, paper pieces, humorous works, teapots, and the list goes on.

To really get the idea, take a trip to Birmingham, Farmington Hills or Royal Oak. It will be well worth it.

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