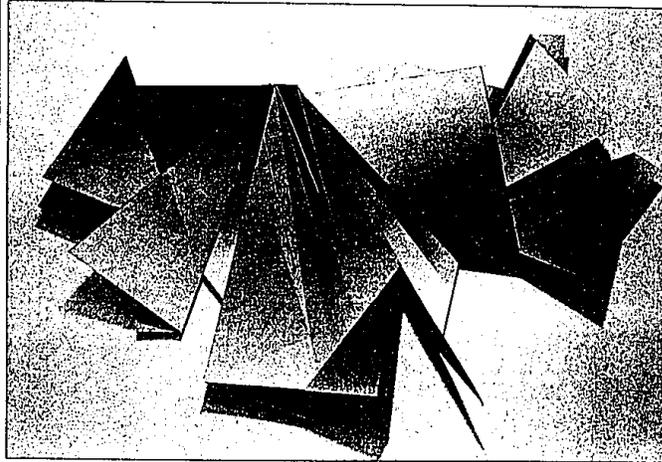




Artist continues variations on a theme



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Painting construction by Aviva Robinson is one of the most recent she did for her show of all new works. Her complicated process produces well-unified and balanced works of art.

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

Aviva Robinson's work carries a strong identity. There's simply no denying it's hers. What continues to make her work fresh is the way she pushes to find the outer reaches of her particular approach.

In her new show of painting constructions which opens tomorrow at Rubiner Gallery of West Bloomfield and continues through the month the folding of the paper is still one of her trademarks as are the angles, the three-dimension, sculptural structure and the soft flow and shading of the paint. She's been doing all that for quite a few years.

But, as Robinson continues her exploration, her colors become stronger and more vibrant and the presentation more dramatic.

After a considerable amount of trial and error, she's found a way to free them from protective glass or Plexiglas — so now they hang on their own, as constructions. But, while they've been liberated from the frame, they haven't lost any of their painting quality, in fact, that aspect is dominant as ever, maybe even more so.

AS THEY move away from the confines of a frame, they become more closely aligned to Cubist paintings.

If that sounds contradictory, think about theater in the round. Even



Aviva Robinson's strong commitment to her art is coupled with many plans for future works.

though the proscenium isn't there, it's still a play with added dimension.

Robinson has a corner on the craftsmanship market for this kind of work. A careful, long, sometimes tedious, process is involved in creating these pieces.

She begins with a small, folded paper "sketch" which is then transferred to large sheets of watercolor paper. Once she draws in the light

and dark areas in pencil, she uses tape to define the lines before she begins to paint.

She applies the paint, acrylic and watercolor, with brushes using a silk sponge for the blending. She sometimes uses collage, crayon and colored pencil.

She dries the layers of transparent color under heat lamps and then

Please turn to Page 4



"Theophrastus' Garden" by Terry Winters, oil on canvas, is 87 by 70 inches. It is in muted grays, blues and neutrals.

Collector, too, needs genius

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

"Contemporary Art in the Collection of Florence and S. Brooks Barron" on display at Meadow Brook Art Gallery through Sunday is a vivid sampling of the taste of the leader of haute art in this metropolitan area.

The Barrons, instrumental in the founding of the Meadow Brook Art Gallery, are revered in art circles for their taste, courage and foresight. She, an interior designer by profession, is credited with the discerning eye which allows her to sense which emerging talent will eventually reach international acclaim.

And the Barrons continue to search for this new talent with enthusiasm and vigor.

The first show of a portion of their collection at Meadow Brook Gallery was in 1967. Many of the artists represented in that avant-garde collection, called "Personal Preferences" were unknown.

As Kitchel Ural, gallery curator, who was in charge of that show as well as the present one says in his introduction in the current show catalog, "Less than a decade later, many of the artist represented in

the Barrons' collection became well-known and recognized as masters of American art.

Some of those same artists are again represented in this show — Frank Stella, Richard Artschwager, Andy Warhol, Claes Oldenburg, Cy Twombly, Malcolm Morley and Will Insley. Only seven of the 33 works in the current show were also in the 1967 one.

In addition to the pure excitement which this exhibit creates in the gallery space, is the value of identifying the new young talents which Florence Barron has smiled upon. Among them are Terry Winters, Helmut Middendorf, German Expressionist, Jean-Charles Blais, Robert Combas and Detroit sculptor, Gordon Newton.

The Barrons bought works by Middendorf, Combas and Blais before their participation in an international exhibition at Museum of Modern Art this past summer.

This exhibition is a rare opportunity to see and enjoy the collection built with an eye and talent that rivals many of the artists represented.

Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 2-6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oakland University campus, Rochester.

Builder likes to move fast

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

With a modestly low profile and an unassuming manner, Sam Blumenstein and his company, Classic Construction Corp. of Southfield, have been setting what has to be sales records in new condominium housing.

He sold 90 of his well built, fairly priced condominiums in Maple Place of West Bloomfield in 90 days. A few of his buyers had to beg off because Blumenstein says he doesn't hold a buyer to the contract if he can't sell his present home.

When completed, Maple Place will have 112 two and three bedroom units, eight to a building on the southwest corner of Maple and Drake, West Bloomfield.

The most expensive unit, the Regency Ranch with a view of one of the two attractive ponds on the gently rolling land, is just under \$97,000.

The 1,860 square feet includes a master suite and second bedroom, living room, dining room and kitchen on first floor and an attractive studio/bedroom and complete bath on the second floor loft.

PRICE includes amenities such as top quality carpeting and an energy efficient marble fireplace. Blumenstein who is building for the empty nester and young professional market was pleasantly surprised at the popularity of the loft floor plan.

Counting the full basement, two car garage and ample patio, it is as roomy as many a home and the loft gives it a sophisticated, contemporary appearance.

Blumenstein, who was heavily involved in restoration of homes in the New Center Development project, said, "We switched to this because we felt the time was right."

And, so it was.

He said keeping many aspects of the business "in-house" and getting in and out relatively fast allows him to offer top quality at prices that are generally below the rest of the market.



The site for Maple Place condos includes two ponds, winding roads and picturesque landscaping.

"We build about 20 percent cheaper per square foot than other builders," he said again explaining that his firm performs many activities that other builders would sub contract out.

BLUMENSTEIN has several plans. The two-bedroom Lancaster, is on one floor (all have basements and attached two-car garages), 1,500 square feet with great room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room and large patio. Prices for this start at about \$84,000.

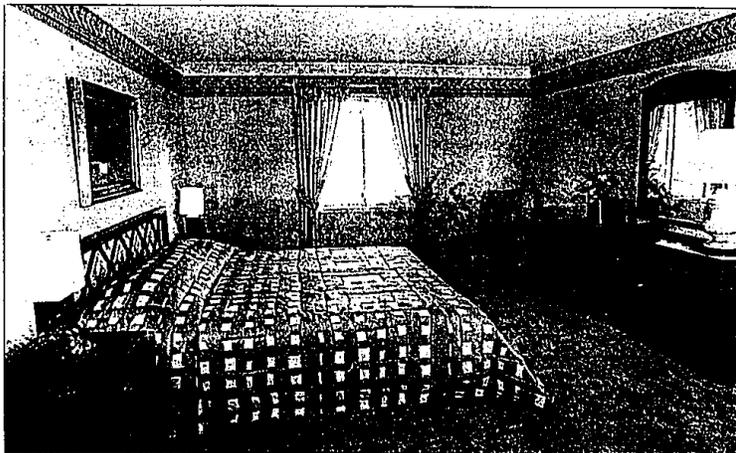
The Fairmont Ranch is a second floor unit with garage and separate entrance on the first floor and

living room, dining room, master suite, second bedroom, two full baths and kitchen above.

Blumenstein who's looking for several other sites in Oakland County, said, "I like the concept ongoing with a big turnover and keeping a low profile."

Since these have been enthusiastically received, he'll build more of the same. But, he's not rigid in what a client may have, adaptations are easy to make when the building is still on paper.

The models, furnished by Perlmutter & Freiwald of Franklin, are open 1-6 p.m. every day, but Thursday.



Master suite bedroom of the Lancaster, with interior design by Perlmutter & Freiwald of Franklin, is 17 by 13 feet. The suite includes a large walk-in closet and full bath plus additional storage.

Staff photos by
Mindy Saunders