

Creative Living

Corinne Abatt editor/644-1100

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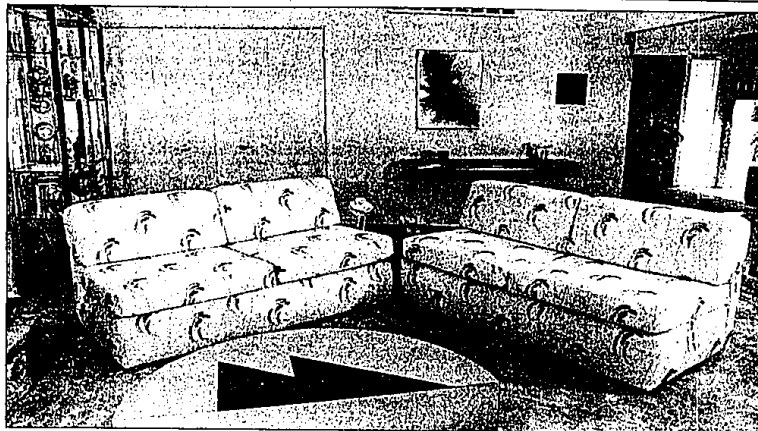


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(F10)

The wool from Fabrications Inc. of Southfield, used on these upholstered pieces, is hand painted and treated to insure permanence before being sent to the workshop for custom upholstery, drapes and pillows.

Staff photos by Mindy Saunders



From fine wool to fine art



By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

An idea which originated in Barbi Goodman's interior design studio of Southfield, The Colorworks Inc., quickly led to the formation of a new, quickly.

Goodman and one of her associates, Linda Berke, had been experimenting with hand painting on wool for upholstery and draperies.

After some three years of trial and error, they perfected the technique, formed Fabrications Inc. and now produce and distribute to the interior design trade.

Goodman said they found that a combination of wool and nylon reacts best to the paint which they developed themselves.

Berke, a Southfielder, who also teaches painting at The Community House of Birmingham, said, "It's all done with a brush. The fabric is very durable and when used for upholstery it has a soft look. It's better than hand-painted canvas which crackles or binds."

When the painting is completed, the fabric is heat treated so the paint bonds with the fabric and becomes permanent.

In the present Gallery Collection, there are eight designs using three colors each with a total of 14 colors available — all subtle shades such as dun-

net, raspberry and mauve along with greens, grays and taupes on creamy white wool.

However, for special orders any color of paint can be used and the background color can also vary. Berke said she recently did a special order using earth colors on a taupe background with success.

Because Goodman studied fabric design and Berke is a Wayne State University graduate in fine arts, both are knowledgeable in painting and design. They are adept in the exacting preparations which must be undertaken to produce the design accurately over the length of the fabric.

Berke said she finds six feet a workable length of fabric which is also suitable for most upholstering projects.

Berke said, "As far as I know we're the only ones in the country doing this. Barbi and I had done some painting on ultra suede and I had been hand-painting on cotton before this."

Goodman said, "It's expensive because of the hand-painting, but it's selling, so obviously people are seeing our fabric as a piece of art."

Locally, the Gallery Collection of Fabrications Inc. is available through Walter Herz Interiors of Southfield, Gormans of Troy, Southfield and Dearborn and Perlmutter & Freiwald of Franklin, along with design studios in other cities — and, of course, The Colorworks Inc. of Southfield.

Brothers win 'Quest' competition

Two Franklin student musicians, Robert and Andrew Adelson, were winners in the Maccabees "Quest For Excellence" grand finals at Orchestra Hall last week.

Robert, 17, clarinetist, won the first prize scholarship of \$5,000. Andrew, 15, oboist, won third prize of \$2,000.

Second prize of \$3,000 went to Grosse Pointe violinist Kelly Leon.

Robert is a senior at Cranbrook School where Andrew is a junior. Both brothers were accompanied on the piano by their mother, Joyce Adelson, a concert pianist on the Oakland University music faculty.

In addition to the \$5,000 Robert will perform with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra.

Due to the overwhelming response of the listeners, Julius Pallone, president of the Southfield-based Maccabees Mutual Life Insurance Company, said that the "Quest For Excellence" will be held in 1985 and will include young artists from throughout Michigan rather than just the metropolitan area.

BEGINNING AT 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, WQRS-FM, will present the winners of the 13 semifinals in a one hour recital.

Robert has studied clarinet for seven years. His teachers have included Sidney Forrest of the Peabody Conservatory; Frank Kowalsky of Interlochen Arts Academy; Sarkis Halajian, Cranbrook Schools; Peter Haddock, Boston Symphony Orchestra; and Peter Schmidt of the Vienna Philharmonic.

For two consecutive years he won the Jonathan P. Cohen Memorial Scholarship for summer study at Interlochen Music Camp where he was principal clarinet with the World Youth Symphony Orchestra.

He was principal clarinet with the Michigan and Livonia youth symphonies and last summer attended Tanglewood's young artist program in Massachusetts. He plans to become an orchestral musician.

Andrew has studied oboe for seven years. His teachers include John Snow and Robert Sorton of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; James Ostryniec, principal oboe, Baltimore Symphony; and Robert



DAVID FRANK/staff photographer

Andrew Adelson, left, and his brother, Robert, performed with their Zephyr Winds chamber group on the Oakland University campus this summer. In this

picture Andrew is just about to say something to Keith Kleckner, Oakland University vice president for academic affairs and provost, who attended.

Krause, principal oboe, Amarillo Symphony. Andrew has performed with the Livonia Youth Symphony, the World Youth Symphony at Interlochen, the Interlochen All-State Orchestra and the

Cranbrook School orchestra and band. He is currently principal oboe with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra.

Imagery — 4 viewpoints

By Benita Bornstein
special writer

The four-person exhibition at Rubiner Gallery is an exploration of media and imagery — photographer Ernestine Ruben's studies of the nude, sculptor Glen Michaels' small bronzes and drawings, Carol Aronson's drawings and paintings of circus themes, and Deborah Sudran's nature paintings.

Ruben arrived at Rubiner Gallery after a successful one-woman show at Batcau Lavoir in Paris. A new interest in dance is finding expression in a commission she received from the city of Paris for the Museum of Modern Art in which she will create an audiovisual piece with original music.

Ruben sees photography much like choreography, the capturing of a moment and freezing it on film.

The nude photographs at Rubiner Gallery appear to be more evocative of photographer Edward Weston. The sensual angles of the bodies, the lights and darks elicit a soft sculptural quality. The turns and curves of the Ruben, nude bring new dimensions and insight to the human form.

RUBEN LIVES in Princeton, N.J., and New York. In addition to free-lancing, she is instructor of photography at the International Center of Photography, New York. Her work can be seen in many publications as well as in collections throughout the world. It isn't possible to live in the Detroit area without experiencing a Glen Michaels sculpture. His many area commissions (to name just a few) include: Henry Ford Memorial Library, Shastler-Sydney Synagogue, Gordon Scott Memorial Hall of Basic Medical Science, S.S. Kresge Foundation, Detroit General Hospital, St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham.

In addition to the Detroit Institute of Arts, his work is also included in the private collections of such notables as W. Hawkins Ferry, Lawrence A. Fleischman of New York and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Michaels' works in the current exhibition are strongly architectural. In No. 6861, the sculpture is built on a wood armature, layered with small tiles, brass nails, old type sets and small pieces of painted wood. The top has a rhythmic fluid quality, first designed in a wax mold and then cast in bronze.

Michaels' drawings form an interesting contrast to his sculpture — whereas the sculpture is "hard as nails," the smudged quality of the black and white drawings offers softness and gentleness.

THE STRONG architectural and geometric regularity in Carol Aronson's drawings and paintings is nicely juxtaposed to Michaels' works.

The circus aerialists form a muscular tension against the squared grids, nuts, wires, ropes and tent stripes, creating a system of spatial relationships. Formerly a classical dancer, Aronson brings this sense of balance and proportion to her work.

In a personal statement, Aronson says, "These drawings are statements about artistic tension and balance. The aerialists are artists precariously balanced between the extremes of life and death, perfection and chaos."

It is interesting that Aronson's colors are softly pastel given the extremes of the subject and the sharp grays colors normally associated with the circus.

Currently assistant professor of drawing and painting at the Univer-



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Wall sculpture by Glen Michaels incorporates a variety of materials, including tiles, nails and cast bronze sculpture within the sculpture near the top. The elements are assembled to suggest motion, flow of line and defiance of gravity in the thrust of the work.

review

sity of New Hampshire, Aronson completed her bachelor of fine arts at Boston University and returned to her native Chicago and the University of Chicago for graduate work in humanities.

This year she has had a one-woman show at Pindar Gallery in New York as well as being selected for inclusion in the Butler Institute's 46th Annual, the Marietta National.

SUDRAN'S densely packed nature paintings bring a colorful contrast to the more subdued works of the other artists. Using photographs as a starting point, Sudran enlarges and exaggerates nature in what can best be termed "up-beat."

In the oil on canvas, "Autumn Current 3," the flowers are jewel-like, emeralds, rubies and topaz buds swept away in the deep midnight-blues of the moving current. Even the golden-colored dried leaves and seaweed retain a sense of life.

Sudran studied at the University of Michigan. She has had several solo exhibitions as well as group shows throughout the country. Her work is in numerous private as well as corporate collections such as Exxon, Xerox, IBM, AT&T and Pfizer Inc.

Rubiner Gallery is at 7001 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield. The exhibition continues through Jan. 5. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, until 5 p.m. Saturday.

Father and son builders receive several awards

Two members of Robertson Bros. Co. of Bloomfield Hills gathered several awards from their peers this month.

Paul C. Robertson Jr. was elected president of the Builder's Association of Southeastern Michigan shortly after the same group made him their unanimous choice for Builder of the Year.

His father, Paul C. Robertson Sr., was inducted into the Builder's Association Hall of Fame. This honor was given in view of the innovative styling he brought to the community during 40 years of building single-family houses, condominiums and cluster houses — in

total, more than 2,000 residences

His most frequently honored designs are in Adams Woods, Bloomfield Hills; Bingham Woods, Bingham Farms; Charwood Forest in the Park; and ongoing projects in Birmingham, Troy, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township.

Robertson Sr. has been active in the building industry for more than 15 years and is president of the family firm. David Robertson, secretary of Robertson Bros., is also active in the Builder's Association of Southeastern Michigan.