

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450

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Art exhibit spans career of 30 years

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

The art show in the Quiet Room of Farmington Branch Library this month depicts the evolution of one woman's work from the time she was a student in Farmington High School, through the years that saw her named Farmington-Farmington Hills "Artist-in-Residence" to the present where back-to-school classes have brought yet another new direction.

The career of Alice Nichols is shown in linocut print, etching, ink, acrylic, watercolor and airbrush application. The show includes some realistic pieces and some gravitating toward abstraction and design.

Nichols said the minireview of her career came about when she was recuperating from surgery last fall and used some of that time to update her files.

"I became aware that I had come somewhat full circle in 30 years, from a strong graphic print image to the current experimentation I'm doing now with airbrush," she said.

Nichols began her career as a school teacher, with an art education major in both undergraduate and graduate work, then taught oil painting to adults, turned her attention to concentration on watercolor, and most recently studied photography and airbrush on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

THE FARMINGTON resident has been active in the art community here since she organized an art show with fellow art students in high school. It continued through her teaching days, and as an early member of both the Farmington Artists Club, in 1960, and later Farmington Art Foundation, the service arm of the club, where she retains active membership.

Of those groups, she says, "The club has seen a lot of changes since our first exhibit in Joe's Hobby Shop that we have now. And we can even see our dream of owning our own building taking some definite direction now."

Her work has been seen far beyond the boundaries of Farmington or Michigan, and of the many awards she received for her art acumen through the years she singles out a Michigan Watercolor Society purchase prize as

one of the most meaningful.

"It was a Detroit Institute of Art purchase prize and is now in the DIA collection," she said.

Awards have also come to her for art-related projects, service and promotion.

The Farmington Area Art Commission gave her the Service to the Arts Award in 1976, and then the Artist-in-Residence Award in 1982. Oakland County gave her a commendation in 1977 and the American Association of University Women selected her as a named grant honoree in 1981.

NICHOLS' FEELINGS about those awards, she says, was summed up when Farmington Area Jaycees gave her their 1984 Service Award for her work in the art community.

She accepted the award saying, "Any recognition I have received for my efforts must be shared by the community. While I used my talents, it was the community that provided the nurturing spirit for my endeavors."

Painting has always been given a high priority for her time, but interspersed with time at the easel, time is spent lecturing with her own slide series as a promotion for the visual arts, a cable television program and completing a book.

Her lectures are a series she's developed for special interest groups that relate to flowers, women, religion and children. One in the making now is being put together with a sculptor and dollmaker.

Her work on television is personal interviews with each of the area's Artist-in-Residence awardees that will give the sister cities a visual art history of its local artisans.

Her soon-to-be-published book is called, "Art is a Thinking Process." It was developed from varied teaching experiences.

Nichols has two sons and calls her home and career life "something that has always been a balance act of activities."

Her oldest son, Kevin, is graphic art editor and cartoonist for Echo, Eastern Michigan University's campus newspaper. Her youngest son, Tim, will graduate from Farmington High School in June.

Nichols' one-woman show remains in the library, at State and Liberty streets in downtown Farmington, through Feb. 28.



The block print (above left) was completed by Alice Nichols when she was a student at Farmington High School in 1956. The etching (above center) was done when she was working on her master's program at University of Michigan in 1968, and the pen and ink she calls "Acadia" (above right) was done in 1972. Wild flowers have become a favorite subject; she has enjoyed them since she started spending her summers in a Tennessee mountain-top studio. The painting at right was done in 1984 with watercolor and airbrush technique.



Young musicians play in Orchestra Hall

Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS) returns to take center stage in Orchestra Hall for a concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 3. Among the performers are three young musicians from Farmington and 33 from Farmington

Hills who play in either the symphony orchestra, the concert orchestra or the string orchestra which make up MYS.

One of the highlights of the afternoon will be the public recognition given to

music educators who are attending the concert as a thank-you for the role they play in the success of the symphony. Music educators from about 40 communities will be in the audience.

The program is given in cooperation

with WQRS radio.

The playlist lists Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5," Handel's "Water Music Suite," Haydn's "Second Symphony" and Sibelius' "Sinfonia No. 2, D Major Opus 43."

Alan MacNair conducts the Symphony Orchestra, Douglas Bianchi conducts the Concert Orchestra and Judith Culler takes the baton for the String Orchestra.

The concert is the major fund raiser for MYS's 1984-85 season.

Tickets run \$6-12 and are available from any CTC Outlet, or the Orchestra Hall box office, 933-3700.

Book Study Club gets under way

Womencenter of Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College, begins a Book Study Club for women who will read books by women and about women.

"Many of us already know that reading a book alone, and then trying to talk to yourself about it is not very rewarding," said Diane Dincelo who has compiled a tentative list of books for participants to read in the next few months, and will facilitate the group with Sadie Davis.

"Experience has also taught us that reading and learning without formal lectures, papers and grades is satisfying, but you need some one to bounce those ideas off with," she said.

An orientation meeting early this month cemented an informal format, with meetings at 1 p.m. every other Wednesday in Womencenter. The first session is scheduled for Feb. 27.

"The club will be a place to discuss, to debate, or to do whatever it is you do with your insights after having read a good book with others," Davis said.

The club will be an opportunity for you to turn on friends to good stuff in the literary world.

The schedule may include visiting

exhibits, seeing films or plays together, then allotting time for a discussion.

BOOKS SUGGESTED during the orientation meeting that would be typical of the kinds of books put up for reading and discussion were "Cinderella Complex," "Listen to our Bodies" and "Women on the Edge of Time."

The only charge will be the cost of the book, or no charge at all if it can be obtained from a library. When specific lists are made Dincelo said she would have the college library's cooperation in obtaining the necessary titles.

Womencenter is in Room 308, J Building.

For information, call Davis at 471-7692, at the college, during regular business hours.

Shop hosts open house for pageant candidates

Open house for all comers, but with emphasis on candidates who are getting ready now to participate in any of the pageants that will be taking place this spring, runs all day Saturday, March 2 in Couture Boutique, 27857 Orchard Lake Road.

"Choosing just the right gown takes a lot of time, for the candidate, for her mother, for her sponsor, for the salesperson, for everyone involved," said Elaine Jordan of Couture Boutique. "We're having fashion coordinators and color coordinators here, and we're making a party for the day to help as many candidates as we can." Jordan said invitations have been

sent out to candidates "on every pageant list we know of and there are a lot of them taking place this spring, beginning with the Mrs. Michigan pageant that's coming up pretty quick in March."

Jordan said she has gotten involved in pageants only because she has helped so many candidates choose their gowns, and has since become a sponsor.

Miss Michigan for 1985 will be chosen in June, in Muskegon. Miss Michigan United will be chosen in June, in Canton. Miss Farmington for 1985 will be chosen during Farmington Founders Festival in July.

Naturalists meet tonight

Farmington Area Naturalists meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Farmington Hills Branch Library, on 12 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road.

Speaker for the evening is Dr. Robert Butsch. His subject is "Museum Art." The meeting is open to all persons interested in nature.

Party boosts telethon to raise funds in fight against diabetes

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation is staging its first telethon, called "Prime Time for a Cure" that will run for 18 hours Saturday and Sunday, March 23 on Channel 20.

One of the parties planned to help boost the pledges will run from noon until 4 p.m. Sunday in Tally Hall, on Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile, headed up by Norm Cash, former Detroit Tiger, LeDeane Day and R. T. Griffin of WCXI, news columnist Bob Talbert, and John Kelly from WXYZ.

Guests will be watching the telethon on a large screen, while celebrity

guests take pledges and introduce local entertainers who are donating time and talents for the party.

Among the entertainers are mimes Cathy Paraventi and Brad Oppenheimer, and troupes of clowns, including Chip Clap. The jazz group "Siempre" will be furnishing some of the music.

A similar party will be staged in Westland Mall during the last few hours of the telethon.

"Prime Time for a Cure" runs from 8 p.m. Saturday through 4 p.m. Sunday.

Episcopal bishop opens 5-week Lenten series

The Rt. Rev. H. Coleman McGehee, Episcopal Bishop of Michigan, will open Trinity Episcopal Church's five-week Lenten Adult Education Series at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the church at 26380 LaMuer. McGehee's talk is called "The Church and Human Rights."

All of the lectures are open to all adults in the community without charge. The series continues, beginning at 7:30 p.m. for the next four Tuesdays. The speaker for March 5 is the Most Rev. Thomas J. Gumbleton, Auxiliary Roman Catholic Bishop of Detroit. His topic is "The Challenge of Peace."

Camp, representing Bread for the World. Her topic is "World Hunger."

The lectures for March 19 and 26 both focus on "The Right to Die." These sessions include discussion led by the Rev. Canon Charles W. McMahon, Canon Liturgist of Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit. Before that McMahon served as Episcopal chaplain at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit for six years.

All inquiries will be taken by calling the church office, 474-2800, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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