## Softworks

# Fastidiously fashioned figures of the dream and fantasy world

One of the standouts in Birmingham Temple's Art Show this mooth is sure to be a display of life-sized soft sculp-tures set in unconventional poses creat-

ed by Kathy Lathers

ed by Kathy Lathers.

The artist calls her picturesque figures "Softworks" and says they were all fashloced "to release the child inside in you and me — to bring out the dream and fantasy world."

By showtime she'll have about a half-dozen 5-6-fect tall crusisticly dressed imageries and another 20 smaller pieces ready for exhibit. But it tradition holds she'll be sold out before closing time.

smaller pieces ready for exhibit. But it readition holds she'll be sold out before closing time.

"The temple show has always been on the control of the provide the county has been on the first show the same the myself to be able as tay the whole three days," she said.

Lathers soltworks were a sellout on the first show she ever prepared for, about 10 years ago. The same has held true right up until the last time she showed her work late this summer during a benefit for Common Ground in Birmingsham's Shain Park.

But the Farmington Hills resident and her fantasy figures will be among 80 artists at the show's preview to meet guests 3-11 pm. Friday, Nov. 15, in the temple, 283-11 pm. Friday, Nov. 15, in the show outliness from 11 a.m. to 7 pm. Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 7 pm. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 7 pm. Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 7 pm. Saturday is the femiles 11 the invite.

p.m. Saturary and recur is a composed by the Saturary and saturary is \$1. The event is the temple's 11th invitational art show, which includes the works of painters, sculptors, those who create jewelry, ceramics, glassworks, weaving, metal art and basketry.

THE MATERIALS Lathers uses to drape and dress her softworks are so unusual, so out-of-the-way, that one cannot help but ask where she finds them.

I'm a scavenger, No matter what I'm doing at the time one eye is always on the search. Look at this," she said, pointing to fastidiously marked shelves in her home studio of handmade weav-ings, little-seen fabrics, crocheted piec-es, unfamiliar jeweiry and bottons.

es, untamiliar jeweiry and bottons.
"Il I find a hat or a collar or a scarf
in an antique shop I can use, it more
than likely will go on some figure right
away. Those things don't sit around
bere." Her sun-lit, shell-lined studio is
filled with a swing machine and a dozen figures in various phases of completion.

tion.

All of her fantasy figures are made with soft bodies with insertions that give them strength so they can stand, alt or be twisted into just about any

human pose.

And all of them take on a character drawn from legend, from myth, from folk tales, a variation on one of these themes, maybe her own dreams, or someone else's dream or fantay they have shared with the artist.

The figures are all given names, such as "The Mender of Broken Hearts" or "The Spirit of Laughter" or "The Sandwonan."

"But different people see them differently. When they find another home I know they take on different poses and different manings so of course they get different names," she said.

LATHERS STUDED art at Grand Valley State College, starting out as a common to the control of the college, starting out as a common to be common to the common to the college of the colleg



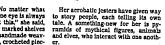
Carri Lathers twists "Midnight Masquerado" into chapted the chapter of the display stand. The fifth-grader at Gill Elementary School has sawn together many of the figures' bodies.

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to story people, each teiling its own tale. A something-new for her is pyramids of mythical figures, animals and elves, who interact with one another of the pyramids that will be seen group of three figures he progging. As creativity expands and progging. As creativity expands and configuration from 12-inches to 6-feed long in the Birmingham Temple abow is a group of three figures he progging. As creativity expands and concepts become more complex, one of excepts become more complex, one of excepts to the first own the program of the standard of the program of the



The pyramid of elves, each interacting with the others, is a rela-tively new concept for the "Softworks" artist. The 12-inch tigures can stand alone or be stacked.

## Rummage wanted

The staff of Harrison High School's year book has put out a call for runn-age of all kinds to be sold in the school Saturday, Nov. 2. Persons wishing to in the lobby of the school audite tribute to the fund-raiser are asked call David Carr, 474-8916, or

Sale hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the lobby of the school auditorium, on 12 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road.





Kathy Lathers, who says she is addicted to dolls, poses with two of her life-size fantasy figures that are ready for Birmingham Temple's Art Show Nov. 15-17. All of her figures are made so they can be twisted into a variety of positions.

#### 'L'Affaire de la Femme' benefits March of Dimes

Makeover artist GaNeene will headline "L'Affaire de la Femme," a lunchcon benefiting March of Dimes flight
against birth defects schouled for
noon Saturday, Nov. 16 in Restaurant
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