

Christmas card judges take notice of realism

By David Messing
special writer

Hey . . . I wanna know why my dumb, stupid calendar doesn't have "Thanksgiving" printed in the box with the number 28. I am so embarrassed that I listed the 28th as the deadline for our Christmas card contest.

Not only that, but there was a slight error in the size of the artwork. So please let me knock up a little. The deadline will be Dec. 5. So after you have eaten too much turkey and Uncle Henry is retelling the same story for the umpteenth time, you can just excuse yourself, steal away and work all weekend on your Christmas card entry.

So let me briefly relist the rules:

- Three age categories — 6-9 year, 10-13 year and 14-adult. There will be a first, second and third prize in each category. There will also be two honorable mention prizes in each category. This year will be a first for our "best entry" award and prize. In all, there will be 16 prizes totaling over \$1,500.
- All artwork must be (or proportionate to) 4 1/4 by 5 1/2. No artwork should exceed 8 1/4 by 11.
- All artwork must be black ink on white board or paper. You may use technical pens, felt-tip pens, brush and ink, scratch board or textured screens. Only line shading, stipple or cross hatching will be eligible.
- The deadline again is Dec. 5. All work must be sent or delivered to the Livonia Art Store and More by 5 p.m. All art work must have a name, address and phone number.

All artwork will be judged according to: thought, ability, originality and execution. You also may enter more than one design.

Gee, it's kind of humbling when I think that last Thursday 240,000 people learned that I didn't know the date of Thanksgiving. But it is good to be humble. As a matter of fact, with just a little more humility . . . I'll be perfect.

Since it took one half of this article to correct my goof in the last article I may as well give you some tips on how we judge the contest.

NUMBER ONE on the list is technical skill, which is, of course, relative to each age category. Detail and realism always has, and probably always will, at least catch the critical eye of any judge. So try to use a fine pen point, tech pens, or

artifacts

felt tip. For 79 cents you can buy a felt tip with a 0.3 tip, which is plenty fine. If the artwork is larger than 4 1/4 by 5 1/2 we view the work through a reducing lens, which shows us how it may appear as a printed Christmas card. Speaking for myself I first look for good structure, proportion and then plenty of detail.


Subject matter is also very important: with a topic as broad as Christmas you may enjoy a wide range of subjects or objects relating to the season.

Originality is a factor. Now for the sake of accuracy we encourage you to use photos in the rendering of objects or animals etc. But likewise we encourage you not to copy the design of any existing Christmas card.

Cleanliness counts. So it is OK if you like to draw with a cheek full of Milkduds but just keep your artwork clean.

Last year we had hundreds of entries and 16 shocked and surprised winners, so get with it. Be sure to mark Dec. 5 on your calendar. Hey . . . my calendar doesn't even have Christmas listed . . . I hope I don't forget that too.

This is another in a series of lessons on art and drawing by special columnist David Messing. He has taught for 10 years and operates two art stores, Art Store and More, 18774 Middlebelt, Livonia, and 265 N. Main, Plymouth. Messing encourages questions and comments from his readers. You may write to him at his store or in care of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 33203 Grand River, Farmington, Mich. 48024.



Deadline near for art contest

There's one more day for College of Art and Design alumni (alias Society of Arts and Crafts and Center for Creative Studies) to submit slides of their art for judging for the annual competition, opening March 8 at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Slides of work in any medium must be postmarked no later than Nov. 15 or delivered to the College of Art and Design office in the Yamasaki Building, 245 E. Kirby, Detroit, by Friday.

The theme of the show, "Immortalization," is Detroit — people, places and things, from the artist's concept.

The jury, Andrew Camden, collector; Mary Deni, director, Detroit Artists Market; and Louis Redstone, architect, Louis Redstone Associates, will make its preliminary selections on Nov. 19 and the

final selections in February.

Slides will be returned if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The entry fee is \$5 for two slides and \$8 for five. Make checks payable to College of Art and Design.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford II are honorary chairs of the March 7 black tie preview, which is a benefit for the College of Art and Design. Mary Beard Detroit of West Bloomfield is general chair of the event.

Even Mary Joan Lieberman of Bloomfield Hills is advisory committee chair.

The opening for the public with the artists as honored guests will be March 8. The art work will be for sale if the artist wishes.

For information, call Sandi Edens, director of alumni relations, 872-3118, Ext. 216.



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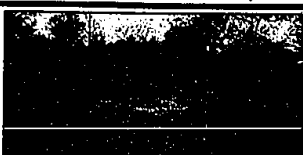
WABEEK - Charming French home has a gracious 2 story entry, living room with fireplace, nutone food center and Jenn-air in kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and lovely decking. Near tennis court and swimming pool. BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS. \$325,000. (H-73578).



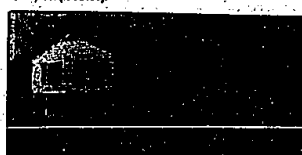
PERBLECREEK - OPEN SUN. 2 to 5 - 8074 Pebblecreek Woods, W.B. (N. of 14 Mile and W. of Orchard Lake) Ranch unit has a professionally landscaped garden to private entry, marble floor foyer, cathedral ceilings in living room, dining room and master bedroom plus a walk-out basement. \$254,900. (H-73191).



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BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS - BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP Fabulous landscaping accents this existing Don Paul Young contemporary ranch with travertine marble foyer, powder room and family room; living room with high ceilings, 2 story family room, skylight in kitchen and finished rec room. 5 bedrooms and 4 full and 2 half baths. \$389,000. (H-63077).



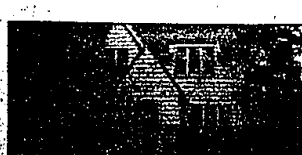
WEST BLOOMFIELD - Immediate occupancy on this 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home with slate foyer, hardwood floors, oak peg floors in family room with built-in bookshelves, gas grill off screened porch and central air. \$133,500. (H-72515).



ROYAL OAK HOME has 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, living room with fireplace, country kitchen, finished basement and attached garage. Fantastic area and lovely, large yard. Call for more information. \$94,900. (H-74287).



GREAT LOCATION IN THE CITY OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Charming Cape Cod is larger than it appears. 4 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths, formal living room and dining room plus a spacious family room; 3 fireplaces and loads of storage. \$298,000. (H-68063).



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