

Sculpture offers artists extra dimension

By David Messing
special writer

Writing is, for me, a very private time that I set aside to make a very private expression. And if what I write is printed and read then I am fulfilled.

Drawing and painting is also a very private, yet public, visual expression. And if what I represent on a two-dimensional plane is shown and viewed then I am again fulfilled.

There is for me a third and ultimate form of expression — a visual image that is a dimension ahead of my painting, which may be overlooked, or my writing, which may be unread. This visual expression demands to be viewed as it claims its own space. This expres-

artifacts

sion is of course, sculpture. When I sculpture, it is a private time. I know that I squint, smile and grimace as I hurriedly move clay around the armature. I feel as if I am trying to find people buried in an avalanche. Cutting, gouging, pushing and pulling, I strain to make a three-dimensional physical image of my mental and often spiritual inspiration. This three-dimensional art form requires my consideration from all sides both top and bottom.

By taking thought, it is remarkably more thrilling for me to create a three-

dimensional piece than a two-dimensional illusion. I should mention that I clearly remember a great improvement in my drawing and painting as I became more adept at sculpture. I always say that from that point on I began drawing and painting with the backside in mind.

But how do you start sculpture? How big should you work? What clay? What ... how ... when? Of course, the many questions about sculpture are valid. But, I would like to demystify this art form and perhaps show you that it is little more than drawing "in the round."

LAST YEAR I wrote a three-part exhaustive step-by-step lesson on sculpture. There are as many three-dimensional techniques as in two-dimen-

sional art. But I would like to briefly introduce you to some of the simple sculpture techniques that require very little money and very few materials.

I love clay. You can hit it, cut it, gouge it, pinch it, smack it and even texture it. With clay you can position it, re-position it and even re-re-position it. It has no structure and easily takes on whatever shapes you require.

I was just telling some of my sculpture students that perhaps sculpture is a little more frustrating than drawing.

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 885 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.

When they asked why, I said, "because a three-dimensional mistake is one dimension worse than a two-dimensional mistake." So go easy on yourself, start simple and by all means have fun.

Probably the most simple start would be a self-hardening clay called Marblex. Although it has its drawbacks, it requires no kiln baking and can be easily sanded, carved and painted after it has dried. So if this is your

first time in the three-dimensional world of sculpture try Marblex. I have seen some beautiful work done with this "beginner" clay. It costs about \$5 for five pounds and a wood tool is 80 cents so you're looking at about \$6 investment that may possibly take your art into a new dimension. Over the next few weeks I will be covering some of the basic forms of sculpture you can do at home.

Book relates an old murder story

Janet L. Langlois, director of the Folklore Archive at Wayne State University, has written a book, "Belle Gunness: The Lady Bluebeard," published by Indiana University Press.

Belle Gunness was a farm lady in LaPorte, Ind., who is believed to have

murdered approximately 22 men and buried their bodies behind her house. It appears that Belle met her just reward when a decapitated woman and the bodies of three children were found in the Gunness home after a fire in 1908.

The story of the lady Bluebeard and the folklore which grew from her activities provides some insight to a society which makes legends of such people as Billy the Kid, Bonnie and Clyde and Lizzie Borden. The price is \$24.95.

Chelsea Place



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!!

Our choicest of locations in Troy could be the reason for our success. Then again, it could be our insistence on quality materials and workmanship throughout the home. Stop out today to inspect our beautiful Model

OPEN
Daily & Weekends
1-5

Ranches and Colonials
from \$155,000

Benecke & Krue
Development Corporation

641-7709 642-8686

ANNOUNCING... THE PREVIEW SHOWING OF ANOTHER LEGEND.

NOW TAKING
RESERVATIONS
FOR
PHASE III.

Once again, Classic Construction has created an environment of incomparable beauty in a price unrivaled in all of West Bloomfield.

Those families who were fortunate enough to purchase a home at our first condominium community, Maple Place, will tell you the delightful experience that awaits you at Maple Place Woods. Set amid lush woods, Maple Place Woods is an ideal blend of park-like surroundings and gracious living. We invite you to explore the opportunity of living at Maple Place Woods. It, too is destined to become a legend.



Custom Designed 2 & 3 Bedroom Condominiums
in a tranquil woodland setting in
prestigious West Bloomfield.

All homes feature hardwood, utility rooms and two car attached
garages. Some units include a hot tub with a third bath.

Priced from
\$85,500.

**MAPLE PLACE
WOODS**
A custom 2 & 3 bedroom condominium community.

A development of The Classic Construction Corporation
10777 Kellen Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034
Office Phone: 356-9277

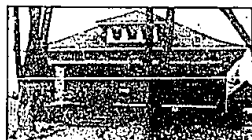
Model Home
533-9855



Merrill Lynch Realty



LANDSCAPED FOR PRIVACY. Sharp 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath Tri-level offers formal dining, family room, new patio. Extra insulation, plus attic fans. 626-9100 \$99,600 (EFL)



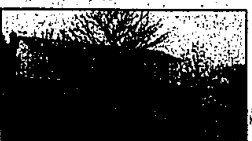
DESIRABLE CAPE COD in downtown Farmington offers brick walks, leaded glass windows, custom oak kitchen and newer baths. Parlor plus oak and lucite stairway to master suite. Gas fireplace, open floor plan. 626-9100 \$109,900 (OFA)



SPACIOUS COLONIAL on lovely treed lot. Master suite has step-down sitting area, bow window, storage loft. Family room with wet bar. Over 3,000 sq. ft. Bloomfield Hills Schools. 626-9100 \$157,500



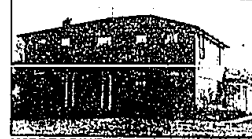
BACKS TO PARK! Professionally landscaped setting find attractive Two Story with loads of convenience extras including Central Air, humidifier, programmable thermostat, wet bar with ice maker, library and more. All close to shopping and major expressways. Farmington Hills Schools. 626-9100 \$119,500



QUALITY CONSTRUCTION throughout this spacious "modern" built split wing Colonial in desirable Farmington Hills. Large open country kitchen, den with built-in, living room or library. Private patio with grill, finished basement. 626-9100 \$126,500 (RFA)



BUILDER'S OWN CUSTOM Ranch includes 20x40 Gunite pool with cabana, plus extensive decking, sauna, 5 bedrooms, beamed living room ceiling, spacious master suite, 2 fireplaces, 3-plus car garage. 626-9100 \$187,500 (EFL)



IMPRESSIVE Interior highlights charming two story with lovely neutral decor, ceramic foyer, 1st floor laundry, gorgeous full brick wall fireplace, butler's pantry. Perfect for transference! West Bloomfield Schools. 626-9100 \$123,900



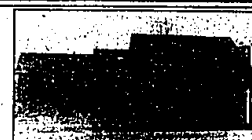
TASTEFUL NEUTRAL DECOR is featured with attractive Ranch on large lot. Newer carpet, immaculate condition, large Florida room, plus new energy saving insulation. 626-9100 \$101,900



FARMINGTON HILLS. Custom Colonial backing to orchard offers 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths plus decorator-perfect interior. Family room opens to spacious deck. 626-9100 \$124,900 (BFU)



VACATION AT HOME in this spacious 4-bedroom Colonial with jacuzzi hot tub, expansive deck and nearby subdivision pool and clubhouse. Lovely yard, heated porch, library, family room. 626-9100 \$129,000 (PWZ)



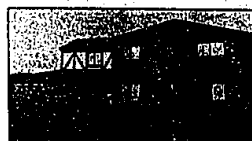
EXCITING CONTEMPORARY boasts Pine Lake privileged Living room with vaulted ceilings and fireplace, family room with cathedral ceilings, skylights, master bedroom loft, more. Hurry! 851-8100 \$93,800



LOVELY 4 bedroom Colonial includes large, spacious kitchen with island, vaulted, beamed family room, 1st floor laundry, den, neutral decor throughout. Prime Farmington Hills location. 626-9100 \$148,500



PRIVILEGES ON Oxbow Lake are included with attractive brick Ranch on privacy half acre setting, 3 bedrooms, full basement, deck, excellent value. 626-9100 \$59,900



ENJOY PRIVATE GARDEN entry in this 3 bedroom townhouse. End unit includes attached two-car garage, pool, tennis and clubhouse privileges. Central air, fireplace, formal dining. Small pets accepted. 626-9100 \$84,000



DEARBORN HEIGHTS. One owner Ranch with 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, includes hardwood flooring, generous closets, raised fireplace in family room. Convenient floor plan, separate master bath. 626-9100 \$82,000 (WFI)

BIRMINGHAM

646-6000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

647-5100

FARMINGTON HILLS

626-9100

TROY

689-8900

ROCHESTER

651-8850

WEST BLOOMFIELD

851-8100

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 A.M.-9 P.M. SATURDAY 9 A.M.-6 P.M. OPEN SUNDAYS