



JOY

Warmest wishes of peace during this special season.

when all is said . . .

Corinne Abatt

Small treasures warm rewards

Pleasant surprises come in all kinds of packages. I recently stumbled on several that brought on a feeling of delight, the kind that stays in the mind for a while, producing a warm afterglow.

Two are books one isn't likely to encounter purely by accident. The other is an exhibit of Michigan Council for the Arts grants recipients at Silver's in downtown Detroit.

The choice, little literary morsels are by local authors — "MKO Cookbook" is by Mary K. O'Neill and "Haiku" subtitled "Where the Loon Calls" by Paul D. Carter. O'Neill, a senior English major at Oakland University, brings a light-hearted approach to food preparation that's certain to delight a whole crop of non-cooks. And besides to fill time while waiting for water to boil or pasta to drain, the innovative author includes a short story bound to please laggard housewife types.

The book is done in her own handwriting, not hard to follow once you get used to it. Make sure to read the handwriting key graciously included in the front.

She approaches food preparation with a breezy, direct "You are the creator of your own universe" style. At times this young thing comes off sounding like a practical no-nonsense grandmother.

UNDER PEANUT Butter Cookies, she writes, "The cookies are crumbly and rich, probably from all that darn butter. I suggest you use a peanut butter which is made from just peanuts and salt. Check your labels. Most popular brands contain sweeteners and added oils, no need for that junk! Check your labels!"

Part way along in the egg salad recipe, she writes, "Peel and dice (I have to tell you to peel it or you'll ask me why my egg salad was so smooth and yours is so crunchy.)"

For copies of "MKO Cookbook" send \$6 plus \$1 for postage and handling to: Mary K. O'Neill, MKO, P.O. Box 090103, Birmingham, 48099-0103.

Carter, who now writes poetry for his own pleasure, often sharing it with friends in bound form, was principal and assistant superintendent in the Birmingham school system in the 1940s and 50s.

Now, professor of education emeritus at University of Michigan, he was on the faculty there for 20 years.

CARTER HANDLES this three-line poetry, a traditional Japanese form, with a touch as delicate as a see-through porcelain teacup. His lovely, sparse word imagery shimmers with quiet excitement.

"From out of the mist the mournful cry of the loon taunting loneliness"

Read these nicely presented gems aloud to friends, family and children and rediscover the beauty of language. Available in paperback at Birmingham Bookstore.

The exhibit at Silver's featured

works in a variety of media by 11 Michigan artists. It's a nicely balanced presentation in a gallery on the north side of the store.

Janel Kelman's imaginative works in glass are honest-to-goodness show stoppers. She makes her imaginative animal creatures from colored stained glass meant for windows.

The hot glass is poured over a mold which she had made and she adds details in enamel paint in the second fusing. The stained glass creatures are rich iridescents which give Kelman's creatures such as a worm, rose monster, "Triggerfish," and "Clawed Monster," a surrealistic beauty.

She puts in the details of teeth and eyes with her paint brush. The rose monster has a rose in his clenched teeth. The soulful-eyed worm has bright yellow slashes along his iridescent purple body.

A peacock bowl, minus Kelman's touch of humor, is a beautiful piece and the turtle bowl, a turtle on its back, has a special charm.

Kelman, who has a bachelors in chemistry and a masters in nutrition, became interested in glass after watching a glass blower work in her college chemistry building.

For about 11 years, starting in 1970, she made and sold glass animals. In the mid 70s, she began making perfume bottles. Both animals and perfume bottles sold well and made it possible for her to take on more ambitious projects. She is presently doing architectural installations in the metropolitan area.

MARIE COMBS of Kalamazoo designs quilts with the kind of dash and flair more often associated with contemporary painters. She uses brilliant colors for strong abstract designs that bring works by Stella and Guillian to mind.

Gary Kulak, Birmingham, sculptor, has several small welded steel chairs and an arbor on display. His work, surprisingly, translates very well to small scale. "Talking Heads," done in 1983, 17 by 14 inches, is a variation on a theme he's been using successfully for a long time.

A series of bronze figures by Kirk Newman of Kalamazoo embody so much energy, they seem ready to take off on their own.

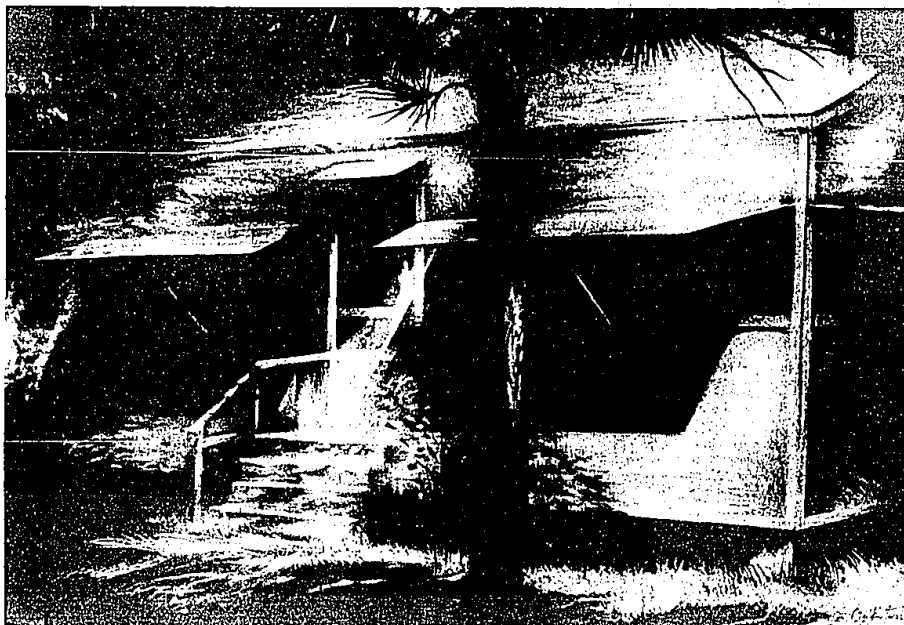
His running men and women, on their way to work or appointments, briefcases almost flying out of their hands, make strong statements about the hectic pace of urban life.

Jose Reguero of Rochester, a furniture maker, has two beautiful pieces in the show, a coffee table and a dresser. Both of these, with glass tops and wood bases, are as much sculpture as they are anything else. Use certainly comes in a distant second to elegant aesthetics in this artist's work.

Others in the Michigan Council for the Arts grant recipients exhibit are Gregory Frey, Louis Mills, Emily Mitchell, Kenneth Schmidt, Mary Tyler and Ann Wood.

Silver's is at 151 W. Fort, Detroit.

Happy holidays.



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Robert Burkert, head of the printmaking department at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is well known for his monoprints. However,

he also loves to draw. Shown here is his large charcoal and pastel of a small cottage in the northern part of his home state.

Artist thrives on challenges

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

There's not a harsh line in "Monoprints/Drawings" by Robert Burkert at Rubiner Gallery of West Bloomfield through Jan. 4. Like nature's colors, Burkert's move, blend and flow across the paper. He thrives on the unpredictability of the monotype, saying with smile that once in a while chance leads him where he hasn't been before.

Monoprints, as the name indicates, are a single work pulled from a plate or plates. The many colors in his works are testimony to the fact that the printing process is done several times before the work is complete.

BURKERT, WHO has moved beyond the traditional monotype to include prints within prints or a print from one plate at the top and a different one at the bottom of the same paper said, "There is a lot of fussy stuff in these prints."

But he likes that. For having mastered the technique, he likes moving beyond the traditional confines of the medium. He improvises. He explores. He innovates.

In this exhibit Burkert has combined painting and printing. He starts by pulling a monotype of blended colors that flow as easily and naturally as those of an evening sky, complete with glow. That becomes the background for his painting.

HE LIKES that initial application of colors with the roller minus any break or flow, saying, "You can't paint that way."

He said, "These works are a combination of all the things I like — printmaking, drawing, painting."

Burkert, head of the graphics department at University of Wisconsin, teaches drawing among other subjects. In this show, he's brought his drawing to the foreground with a series of large charcoal and pastel works that are new to area audiences who, in the past, have associated him with monotypes.



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Robert Burkert did a series of monotypes on the great French painter Claude

Monet. This one was done using two plates on the same print.

Among the subjects for these large drawings in the show is what he described as a "funny little cottage in northern Wisconsin," a still life incorporating images of "some of my heroes" (in the world of art), and a lifeguard on duty.

"I LOVE drawing the figure," he said adding that he wants to do a series on lifeguards and he intends to work as large as possible.

Burkert enjoys moving around within the field of

art. He's not one to stand still and let his viewers keep throwing compliments. He likes challenges, isn't afraid to push out and does so with enough ideas to keep him busy indefinitely.

His energy and enthusiasm are refreshing, stack that up beside an artist who is in complete command of his media and you have a winner.

Rubiner Gallery is at 7001 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, until 5 p.m. Saturday.

Photographs exhibited

Allan Barnes of Redford is pictured at right with his photograph, "Along U.S. 27, Kentucky," now on exhibit at the Detroit Artists Market, 1452 Randolph, Detroit. It is part of the annual holiday show, which continues through Jan. 4. Barnes also was a finalist in a statewide competition sponsored by Bank of Commerce, Hamtramck. His portrait of Simon Moxian was bought by the bank and will be on permanent display there.

