

Restaurant passes art showcase test

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

As homey atmospheres go, that of Restaurant Duglass of Southfield, is one of the more elegant.

When Showcase Duglass was started a while back, more than one person questioned showing art in a restaurant. Art belonged in a gallery, right? Well, yes and no.

Showcase Duglass makes no claims about being a gallery. No money for the purchase of art changes hands. It is what it says, a showcase, a place where art is shown. Those who want to look can do so. Those who want to look while they eat and drink can do that too.

Those interested in owning the art displayed can pick up a business card and contact the artist. Mean-time, the art provides a pleasing, changing show and the luxurious ambience gives the art an added dimension.

For instance, there's current a show of sculpture by Margaret Valpey of Birmingham at Duglass. Now, this fine artist is partial to figurative work. She likes to do wild animals, long-legged dancers, children and a myriad of types who haunt the park benches of the world.

THE ARTIST has an engaging sense of humor which shows up in her work as well as her titles as in the "Lovely Lady Llama." The artist pronounces both l's as in, "lulove-ly, lulady, lulama."

That one, incidentally, looks truly lovely on the mantle in the restau-

rant along with the bacterian camel. Both take on their just due in dignity in that setting.

And Valpey's tall, rakish cowgirl looks like she was made for that spot on the piano bar, under the large, contemporary, architectural light fixture. She adds pizzazz and the location, in turn, gives her breathing space. A great trade-off.

Valpey's rhino is appropriately placed on the wide, gleaming, wood bar. There's a kind of no-nonsense rhythmic beauty to this unflappable creature.

Restaurant Duglass, it turns out, is an interesting place to showcase art. Valpey's, in particular, hers literally cries out to be displayed in a luxurious, uncluttered setting — soft lights, rich woods and fabrics, polished silver, damask napkins neatly folded, nothing flamboyant, you get the idea.

Showcase Duglass isn't an idea I would have been proud to own. I actually didn't give it much consideration until recently, but it does work.

Margaret Valpey's cowgirl is 30 inches high. Instead of Calvin Klein or Levi jeans, she's wearing original, signed Margaret Valpey jeans. The artist said she loved doing the "waiting people" series which also is on display at Restaurant Duglass in Southfield. And she has a lot of affection for the crippled ill-ones who is on the bar at the restaurant. Valpey generally does only one of each bronze.



Art Center stays busy

Pontiac Art Center has activities for artists, art students and art lovers planned for the months ahead.

Artists are invited to submit material for proposed exhibitions in 1987. Deadline is March 1 of this year.

Needed will be six slides of recent work with labels indicating the top, media, measurements, title, date of work and name of the artist. Enclose artist statement about the work and a recent resume. The resume will not be part of the material to be juried.

The jury includes professional artists and curators from the metropolitan area. Include stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of slides.

There will also be a review of art, music and theater presentations for possible production at the Art Center.

Submit a written description of the event and verify by previous documentation. Send proposal, resume and stamped, self-addressed envelope to Exhibitions, James Gilbert, Pontiac Art Center, 47 Williams, Pontiac 48053.

Deanna Sperka, artist, will give three lectures on women in the arts from a Michigan as well as national viewpoint. The evolution of the work of sculptor Hanna Stibel will be included.

The three slide lectures will be 6:30-8:30 p.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 23 and Thursday, Jan. 30.

Winter classes in dance, visual arts, crafts and creative writing as well as vocational classes in fashion and automotive design are just getting underway.

For information on any of the activities at Pontiac art Center, call 333-7849.

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