

# Sculptor builds fantasy world

By Corinne Aball  
staff writer

In a gallery where showcasing outstanding works in glass is commonplace, the latest show by Damien Priour at Venture Gallery of Lathrup Village is in the knock-your-socks-off category.

## Student musicians given scholarships

The Birmingham Community Band recently notified five local students that they had won summer band scholarships to Interlechen National Music Camp.

Those chosen by the judging committee for full scholarships were: Alice Leneghan, flute, sophomore, Seaholm High, Birmingham; and Amy Kibler, French horn, sophomore, Farmington High School, Farmington Hills.

Those winning half scholarships were: Josh Manthe, trumpet, seventh grade, Larson Middle

the same building as Habatat Galleries, 28235 Southfield, Lathrup Village, is showing three rooms of related works by Priour, the primitive pets, the limestone and glass monoliths, the all-glass monoliths and two installations.

This is both a sizeable and highly imaginative body of work by this Austin, Texas, artist, who, until now was more regional than national in reputation.

### review

He belongs to the breed of artists who bring a capricious, storytelling intelligence to their work.

PRIOR'S PRIMITIVE pets are beautifully crafted fantasy creatures, as outrageous as those of Dr. Seuss and other award-winning children's book writers.

Priour, who works strictly in cold glass in combination with other natural materials, uses glass as a painter uses canvas — as a medium. He cuts, polishes, chips, shapes, paints, etches, layers, and in general, pushes it in every possible direction.

The heads of his primitive pets are part dog, part horse, part sea horse and full of charm and whimsy.

The juxtaposition of old and new, sea and land, live and inert is present or implied in many of his works.

The whimsy in the pets gives way to straightforward splendor in the monoliths of ancient limestone (complete with fossils) with inset layers of green/blue plate glass.

These are people-size architectural

works that stand as monuments to time and beauty, with the artist working the stone in the columnar pieces ever so slightly to call attention to the beauty of the natural stone.

The heavy plate glass monoliths or totems have a totally different feel. Old and new are still combined, but here the emphasis is more on new than old. Priour etches and paints designs on the totems, some giving the impression of ancient tomb art, the others are of fish in a graduated color scale.

"The Garden Party," an extension of the pets series, is an installation of five large, flat glass creatures gathered in a setting of live plants and a fountain. These fellows have an endearing presence about them.

In this grouping as well as in both the glass and limestone and glass monoliths, the artist shows an uncanny ability of never overdoing or belaboring his art. He knows when to touch and when to leave alone. As a result, his works have a fresh, quietly exciting, timeless look.

Works by Jack Schmidt and Klaus Moje are on display in the upstairs Habatat Gallery. The shows continue through Feb. 21.

Hours for both galleries are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, until 9 p.m. Friday, 28235 Southfield, Lathrup Village.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Damien Priour's primitive pet from the series of the same name has a special presence that crosses many boundaries of the animal kingdom. The artist is also showing monoliths and environmental pieces in his show at Venture Gallery of Lathrup Village.

**EVERGREEN VILLAGE**

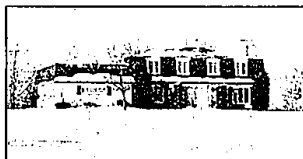
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**CHARMING unique BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE home** has hardwood floors in foyer, circular staircase, step-down living room, library, bay window in dining room and central air. 4 bedrooms (4th bedroom has own stairway), 2 full and 2 half baths and a great location. \$275,000. (H-75337).



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**BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS**  
Brick and cedar finished walk out ranch on pond has been extensively landscaped. Cathedral ceiling and built-ins in living room and family room (with wet bar); new ceramic floor in kitchen, laundry room and hall baths, sprinkler system, extra insulation and more. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, library and finished walk out lower level. \$395,000. (H-77073).



**WALNUT LAKE PRIVILEGES BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS**  
Sunny walk out ranch with lots of windows has 4 bedrooms (lower level could be in-law suite or teen hide-a-way), 3 1/2 baths, updated kitchen with pantry, neutral decor and loads of storage. \$189,000. (H-73729).



**GILBERT LAKE PRIVILEGES!** 3-4 bedrooms (large master bedroom with his and her baths), 4 1/2 baths, family room plus game room and updated kitchen. \$249,500. (H-74604). OPEN SAT. & SUN. 1-4, 950 Timberlake, Bloomfield Hills. N. of Quarten, W. of Lohser.



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