

Keeping a theme while shifting materials

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

One of the area's top innovators in the contemporary idiom, Marilyn Schechter has a show of her paintings and sculpture in the Sales and Rental Gallery, Detroit Institute of Arts to June 1.

There is an intricate relationship between her paintings and her sculpture.

Discovering how her creative process works and the step-by-step procedure she must go through as she begins new work has given her a great sense of freedom and security. She creates a mental environment for herself by doing drawings, writing and reading, and

being at her Farmington studio everyday before the actual work begins.

"For me," she said, "it's almost like meditation, but I have to be here in my studio until the process begins."

SHE SAID IT'S futile to try to analyze why the process works, she just knows it does and it feels right.

"When you're doing things that come out of your subconscious, you can't be that finite about the meaning. It's a mystery."

Now, she's not only content to live with the mystery, she seems to actually enjoy it. She's still using the frond forms, the fat jagged edge triangles and the tables slightly askew.

When these are reinterpreted in sculpture and environments, she frequently adds bits of organic

matter, shells, stones and in one of her new works for the DIA Gallery, rose petals.

Schechter has never been locked in by materials, she delights in using whatever will best express what she envisions.

This time, the frond motif comes out in large, leafy sculptures which hang on the wall and project out from it. The edges of painted screen are cut into deep indentations.

She solved the problem of how to treat the jagged edges of the cut screening by applying black, silicone caulk which looks like a patent leather edge. Very effective against the mauve/red/pink she uses on the screen.

Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, Farnsworth Street entrance, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit.



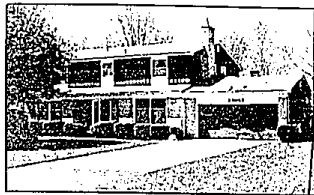
RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Marilyn Schechter created an environment using a found table, wall sculpture and a wood and screen triangle. That environment incorporated several ideas she has used before, but in a new configuration. The drawing, below, with the frond forms, illustrates how her ideas begin and then move to other media.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Marilyn Schechter explains the interesting thought processes and windblown, but that's part of the organic quality of her work. large works of painted screen and metal look deceptively light



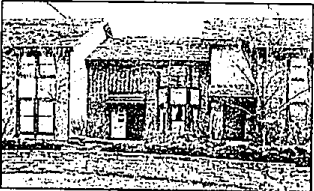
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