

Local galleries support Detroit Focus

By Benita Bornstein
special writer

For one day only, Detroit Focus Gallery is moving up town to Birmingham. Amidst wine, music and hors d'oeuvres, Detroit Focus will be staging its second fund-raising art exhibition sale, 2-5 p.m., Sunday, May 18.

The Donald Morris Gallery, Robert Kidd Gallery, Hill Gallery, Susanne Hilberry Gallery and Sheldon Ross Gallery, all in downtown Birmingham, will open their doors to display paintings, drawings, prints, watercolors, sculpture and ceramics by notable Michigan artists.

The list is impressive, a "who's who" in Michigan art. Among those exhibiting are David Barr, Charles McGee, Sergio De Guisti, John Garty, Lester Johnson, Robert Wilbert, G. Alden Smith, and Shirley and Tom Parish.

The installation of the exhibition sale will be professionally supervised by sculptor Sue Linburg and the particular dealers involved.

THE EVENT'S honorary chairperson is Samuel Sachs II, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts with Roy Slade, president of Cranbrook Academy of Art and W. Hawkins Ferry, Detroit's foremost collector of contemporary art participating on the honorary committee.

Detroit Focus Gallery is a non-profit exhibition space that was or-

preview

ganized by Michigan Visual artists in 1978. It is unique in that it continues to be operated by the artists themselves. Since its inception, Detroit Focus has prospered and grown. But it wasn't always an upward climb.

Although one-third of the funding is from federal, state and local agencies, the other two-thirds must come from membership, corporate and private foundations, increased sales and fund raising.

In 1983, the first art sale benefit held at the North Woodward galleries, was for survival.

"The response from the community was a resounding commitment to the artists and the continuation of Detroit Focus. The issue today is not survival, but a need to augment and sustain the progress of the gallery. It allows a stabilization and growth enrichment," said Gere Baskin, director of Detroit Focus.

AN EXAMPLE of an expanding program is that up to two years ago the gallery never held a one-person show. Since the "Sustained Vision" program, G. Alden Smith and Ellen Witt have enjoyed a one-person exhibition.

In 1987, sculptor Morris Brose will be the third "Sustained Vision" artist

to enjoy a one-person show. Also, initially Detroit Focus had no documentation and today publishes two catalogues a year as well as the Detroit Focus Quarterly.

Another aim of the fund-raising exhibitions sale, according to Baskin, is to provide a broader exposure and greater audience to the artists as well as to the gallery. In the past year, three shows in other Midwest alternative space galleries have increased the gallery's visibility and credibility.

DETROIT FOCUS, 743 Beaubien, in Detroit's Greektown, has moved from the second floor to more professional quarters on the third floor of the same building.

The new gallery quarters were made possible by the generosity of Royal A. Oppenheim and built by artists to specifically accommodate a variety of exhibition programs. A successful fund-raising on May 18 will insure the continuation of these programs.

Benita Bornstein, a local freelance writer has done doctoral work in English at Wayne State and is a avid booster of fine art in American life.

Jewish culture series continues

As part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, the organization is sponsoring five regional symposia on "Creativity and Continuity: Jewish Culture in America."

The metropolitan Detroit area has been selected as one of the five regions, with activities planned in both United Hebrew Schools, in Southfield and the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield beginning May 14.

"Jewish Popular Culture: Media and Messages" is the title of the Detroit-area symposium, which is being organized in part by the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit. Organizations participating in the entire series include B'nai Brith Men's Council; Program in Judaic Studies, University of Michigan; NA'AMAT USA Greater Detroit Council (formerly Pioneer Women); and Women's Auxiliary to Maimonides Medical Society.

"Panelists John Ruskay and Joan Rosenbaum will discuss "Shaping Communal Attitudes: Jewish Institutions as Mediators of Culture" at 1 p.m. today at LaMed Auditorium in United Hebrew Schools, 2150 W. 12 Mile.

Ruskay is vice chancellor of public affairs at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and has held offices in the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation, National Jewish Conference Center and Society of Advancement of Judaism.

ROSENBAUM, DIRECTOR of the Jewish Museum, New York City, was program director of the New York State Council on the Arts 1973-80.

Christ Church hosts festival

Christ Church Cranbrook's 1986 May Festival will take place on Friday and Saturday.

An outgrowth of the popular Handel Festival of the past three years, the 1986 May Festival includes a chamber concert and an evening titled "The Celebration of the Senses."

Friday evening's concert will feature a chamber orchestra of instrumentalists whose specialty is music of the 18th century, the Christ Church Chamber Choir and the Christ Church Boy and Girl Chamber Choir.

The concert will include a concerto grosso by Handel, a "Missa Brevis" by Mozart, works by Henry Purcell and a harpsichord concerto by J.C. Bach.

The evening includes a carillon pre-concert and a reception following the performances. Tickets are \$5 and \$3 for students and senior citizens. The concert begins at 8 p.m.

"The Celebration of the Senses," 6-10 p.m., includes an art exhibit and sale of works by area artists, a wine-tasting with cheeses, breads and fruit and classical music. The event is a benefit for special youth music programs and for the Music at Christ Church Cranbrook music fund. Tickets (donations) are \$15.

For information and tickets, call the parish office, 644-5210. Christ Church Cranbrook is at Lone Pine and Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills.

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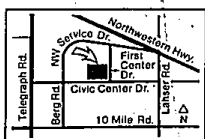
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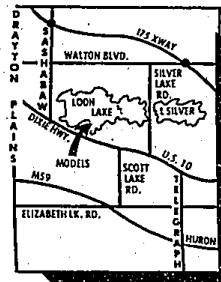
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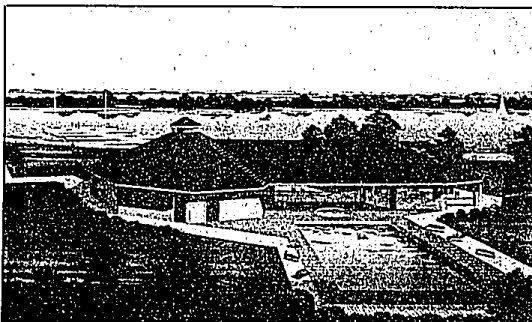
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