



Susan Thomas models her one-of-a-kind collage collar which features a bold new look for leather. The artist uses antique lace, pony and lamb fur, painted suede and metallic leather fringe for a unique way to dress up simple outfits.

# The ART

## of wearing it well

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

Buttons and bows, leather and lace, fringes and furs — that's what artist-designer Susan Thomas' belts and collars are made of.

The one-of-a-kind accessories are for the woman who's daring and has a unique sense of style, says Thomas, who puts intriguing collage designs on leather.

"I used collage in my paintings and decided to use the art form in fashion design," said the former photographic model.

Collage is a technique in which bits of objects are pasted together on a surface in an incongruous relationship. Thomas pastes and handsews antique buttons, old pieces of lace, bits of fur, fringe, mil-

itary badges and what-have-you on her leather and paints designs on it.

"I'VE MADE MANY trips to the Southwest and that inspired the look," she said. "I may buy material, lace and feathers in New York. But combing flea markets for antique buttons, military badges and other unusual artifacts is the most fun."

In the first leather item she did, Thomas used an old piece of lace owned by her grandmother and some gold braid. She began to create and sell her items about a year-and-a-half ago. The accessories go well with a leather skirt or pants and a simple ivory or black blouse or sweater.

Thomas for 10 years was a fashion designer and model for the Detroit auto show. Her creations have been shown at Gallery Birmingham, Troy Gallery and the Detroit Artists Market. For information, call 335-0438.



Kathy Cameron models a screen print on sage silk duister and ivory tank top from artist Carol Stormzand's wearable dream images. The subtle design can be dressed up or down with the proper accessories for the elegant or funky casual look.



Artist-designer Carol Stormzand displays her hand painted scarves, just one of the many accessories in her collection of colorful, wardrobe pickers-uppers.

## Dream images to wear

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

"Wearable dream imagery" distinguishes the designs of artist Carol Stormzand.

Her subtle, screen prints on silken fabrics come from what Stormzand calls her waking dreams of the unconscious. And there's a story behind the images.

"Artists are always looking for something different," she said. "Ancient cultures haven't been nurtured

in our society and these cultures, which believe in the significance of dreams, provide unique creations for artists, poets and musicians."

STORMZAND IS screen printing designs on separates for women. She also hand paints scarves, socks, T-shirts, tote bags and even shirts for men who go for the unusual in dressing.

"You can't buy our look in a store," Stormzand said. "Hand-painted clothes aren't for the conserva-

tive man. But for women, the look can be funky casual or elegant depending on accessories."

Stormzand also has done a series of bird paintings on clothes and gave a workshop at Dominican High School on dream images with a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts. Her work has appeared in the Troy Art Gallery and Detroit Artists Market.

Stormzand can be reached at 874-0234.