Fabric art attracts worldwide acclaim

Noted artist Calman Sheml is flying in from his home in Israel for a reception at 8 p.m. today at the Jewish Community Center of West Bloom-field, where an exhibition of his soft palntings and acrylics on canvas continues through Feb. 7.



Calmen Shemi, trained as a sculptor, has developed an unusual fabric art. He uses wool, felt and other fibers, which are dyed, cut by hand and arranged in layers much as paint is applied to a can-

Making Detroit

debut

He had an exhibit at the same location about a year ago, so his return, again under the auspices of the Danielle Peleg Gallery of West Bloomfield, asys something about the public's response to his unusual art.

Shemi, born in 1939 in Mandoza, Argentina, moved to Israel when he was 22 and was a member of Kibbutz Carmia until 1981. He studied at the School of Ceramies and Sculpture of Mandoza and in Israel with Rudy Lehman, a German-Israel Is sculptor.

In 1977 he began to create the soft paintings which have since brought him international attention. For these paintings, using fabric as the medium, he draws on influences of nature, trees, fields and landscapes.

um, be draws on influences of nature, trees, fields and landscapes. Shemi said he felt very close to earth and nature while living at the Kübutz. He wrote that his work is also influenced by ancient African, island ic and israel culture and the implements of everyday life such as pottery, tools, sculptures and ritual utensils.

He said that much of his work over the years has been with architects and interior designers. That collaboration is represented in his art, since many of his soft paintings are large, brilliantly code pieces, abstract or semi-abstract in design that would be appropriate for large spaces.

He wrote, "I know I succeed in awakening in people a longing, a familiarity integral in my works — landscapes people feel they have visited or dreamed about. The key to my work is imultaneously simplistic and complex — but neither arrogant nor pretentious. This popular understanding is what I believe to be the inherent appeal of my soft paintings."

His soft paintings are in public and private col-lections in Israel, China, England, Spain, Switzer-land, Australia, Canada, the United States, Niger-ia and France.

The exhibition at the Jewish Community Center is in the Hamburger Exhibition Lobby, 6600 West Maple, West Bloomfield. It is open during regular hours.

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Portrait of state

"A Day in the Life of Michigen" is the theme of the photo show at Somerset Mall through Feb. 7. Last June 1, 30 photographers were assigned an photographors were assigned an area in the state to photograph in a 24-hour span. Pictured is one done by Maynard Jueli, which is part of the traveling exhibition. The stop at Somerset is aponarced by Meteor Photo of Troy. Somerset Mell is at Coolidge and Big Beaver, Troy.

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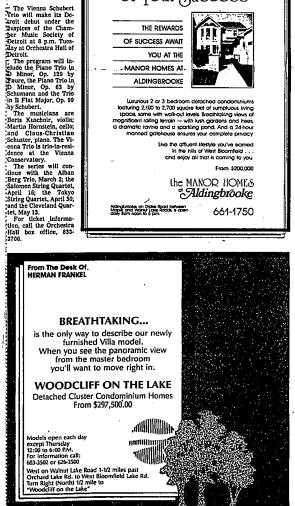
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