

Looking at 'realism'

ELL, IT happened. I'm 40 years old. And I did lose some of the weight I wowed to lose. But the word "some" does not seem to go with the word "vow." Maybe my vow to lose weight by the age of 40 was, therefore, a "semi-vow" or a "kind-of-vow." I was fortunate, bow-eye. Io have been over overselebt.

was, therefore, a "semi-vow" or a windo-fo-vow." I was fortunate, however, to have been over overweight when I was married 20 years ago. So now I can say, "I still weigh what I weighed when I got married."

But, oh — is that weight in different places. And to be realistic, it doesn't get any better. One of my tectures on anatomy is on aging and after I describe the aging process, as a joke, I always add, "It's not a pretty sight."

It's probably not fruch fun to be realistic when It comes to our ago to but it sure is fun in our artwork. Before I begin listing some of the basics of realism, let me first state my position on the subject. Realism is the goal until it is reached, after which can should be supported to be supported by the support of the subject. Realism control to cality where can at some potteroure. Realism can at some potteroure results of the support of the come borting because it is bound to reality where expression can never become stagnant because it is spiritual.

FIRST OF ALL understand that

FIRST OF ALL, understand that realistic drawing, painting or sculpting is primarily the work of the mind and eyes and is only carried out through the work of the hand. The hand must learn to obey and faithfully carry out what the mind has taught the eyes to look for.

We artists, when frustrated, break our pens and pencils and bang our fists as if our hands were disobedient in rendering. When, in reality, what we see is not understood enough and the message to the hand is garbled.

the message to the hand is garbled.

Now, this is getting pretty heavy.

Let's put it another way. Learning to draw or paint realistically is simply learning to look. Remember the word "look" is defined as "to study or scarch out" and to merely "see" by definition means to "to use vision." Too many artists just see and never learn to look.

Now I must emphasize the word "learn." How to look with the eyes of an artist can be taught. Those who seem to be gifted have the ability to look but still need technical training

to use their gift. I have seen the drawings of "gifted" people who feel no need for art training. After I look through a dozen or so beautiful pen-cil and pen drawings, I ask "Why no watercolor or oil, or sculpture etc." Gifted artists still need to learn how to use art materials. to use art materials.

Gifted artists still need to learn how to use art materials.

WELL, NOW THAT I've gotten that off my chest, let's start with my first step toward realism: the reduction of lines. Take, for example, the control of the mevapaper you are still not seen to the newspaper you are still not seen to the newspaper you are still not seen to the form the paper and the clean edge on the sides. Ask yourself, "Why do I see that? Is it because of an outline?" and, of course, the answer is no. You see the edge of the paper because it is a different color than the background. The paper is also a different texture than the background.

Let's look at something else. Let's any it's your thumb, So in your drawing, painting and sculpture, try not to depend on lines on the paper, came, the seen of the seen of

grey.

I will continue this topic in my next article but until then, watch also for color changes or shades of grey on your subject.

grey on your subject.

Remember, too, that all color changes. A red car does not appear to be red all over. There are reflected colors: white and pink highlights, deep red to brown-shaded areas, and etc. Shapes don't have to be as big as a car to show color changes. If you are working in only black and white, then the same holds true for shades of grey.

Dave Messing has been an art Dave Messing has been an art teacher for 10 years. He is the owner of the Art Store & More in Livonia. He welcomes comments and questions from readers. Send those to him in care of this news-paper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

briefly speaking

PASTEL/WATERGOLOR
 WORKSHOPS
 Three workshops are being of ferred by the Visual Arts Association of Livonia, all to be held on Saturdays in Febausian to the held on Saturday. The first will be one in pastels. The first will be a two-session Create-a-Painting workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or \$P. b., 20 and \$27; and Carol in Costume, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 19. The classes are held in Jefferson Center, 9501 Henry Ruff Road, Livonia, For more information, call 464-6772.

• TALENT SEARCH

● TALENT SEARCH
Auditions will be held from 1-3
p.m. Saturday at Oakland University
Dance Division for area youngsters
interested in the School of American
Ballet, founded by legendary choreographer George Balanchine.

• POSTER WINNERS

Winners as well as other entries in the Livonia Human Relations Com-mission's Brotherhood Week poster contest will be on display in the Livonia City Hall lobby from Feb. 8-22

◆ BALLETS PLANNED
Children's Ballet Theatre of Detroit will present "Peter and the
Wolf" and "Soirces Musicales" in
Garden City High School at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 5.
In addition, the Detroit Chamber
Ballet, a newly formed company
comprised of CBT alumnae and
other dancers up to 17 years of age,
will be making its premiere performance with "Chopin Variations."

Cranbrook PM
The mood, art and culture of Paris in the '20s, great art collections and an orientation for an eight-day photographic journey to Ireland will be explored during February classes sponstored by Cranbrook PM.
"Paris in the '20s... the Neverneding Pariy," a three-week course beginning at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8, features a lively look at the people and events, geniuses and crackpois whose erupting creative energy in 1920 Paris became the talk of the art world. Featured lecturer will be Hope Palmer, professor of art, Henry Ford Community College and adjunct art historian, Detroit Institute of Arts. Feb is \$27.50 for the series, or \$10 for a single lecture.

Art historian and critic Ruth Rattner, who is director of Art Advisory Services, will give a three-week course entitled "Great Art Collections... An Inside View" beginning

Cranbrook PM classes start

Tickets are \$3 for children 12 and under and \$4 for adults and will be available at the door. For more in-formation, call 274-4178.

ormation, call 274-4178.

■ ZAPPAI CONCERT

The University Dance Company, noted for its innovative performances, will present a concert featuring the music of one of pop music's most outrageous characters, Frank Zappa, in a show entitled, simply "Zappa!.

Performances will be a the Power Center in Ann Ann Arbor from Feb. 11-14. Tickets are available at the Lengue ticket office, located in the Michigan League Building on the University of Michigan campus. Tickets are 49 and 45 for reserved seating with the control of the cont

BENEFIT CONCERT

● BENEFIT CONCERT

A major concert production to benefit the AIDS Task Force of the Catherine McAuley Health Center will be presented at 8 pm. Saturday, Feb. 6, in Rackham Auditorium, Ann Arbor. In cooperation with the University of Michigan School of Music, he evening will showcase specialists on period instruments including representatives from Ann Arbor's American Baroque Ensemble and Ars Musica, the Baroque Crochestra, as well as guest musicians from Soulder, Bloomington, San Francisco, Boston and New York City.

Tickets are siz and 38 for students and senior citizens and are available from the Michigan League ticket office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets will also be available at the door. For more

classes start

at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. Highlights will
be a survey of the backgrounds, personalities and tastes of several of
this century's important collectors.
Lydia Winston Mabbin, the Fords and
the Nockeeller's Abso includes retracts the mether' passionate
bracks the passi

information, call Michael Lynn at 484-4297.

ANTIQUE SHOW

• ANTIQUE SHOW
The 2th annual antique show of St. John's Episcopal Church will take place at the church the weekend Feb. 11-13. The show is recognized as one of the foremest antique shows in the metropolitan Detroit area. Among the 30 dealers who plate of will cature a selection of wicker, including some unusual Victorian piece will feature a selection of wicker, including some unusual Victorian piece. The church is st. 115. S. Woodward at 11 Mille Road. Show hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday. There is ample for a parking, Admission is \$23.0 A continuous buffet lunch and dinner will be available.

• VALENTINE'S DAY

VALENTINE'S DAY
WORKSHOPS
The Detroit Historical Museum
will offer two craft workshops
featuring Valentine's Day themes at
the museum, 5601 Woodward Avenue in Detroit on Saturday, Feb. 13.

The first will be a heart-shaped basket workshop directed to students 14 and older scheduled from 10:30 am, to 2:30 p.m. There is a \$10 ad-vance registration and advance reg-trestlent recoulted.

a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is a \$10 advance registration and advance registration is required.
The second is a parent-and-child
valentine workshop in which a special valentine memento will be crecial valentine memento valentine
To register or to receive further
information on either workshop, call
833-1263.

WOMEN PAINTERS EXHIBIT

• WOMEN PAINTERS EXHIBIT
The Detroit Society of Women
Painters and Sculptors will have
helr showing at the Birmingham
Bloomfield Art Association from
Feb. 6-27. The exhibit will feature
works of approximately 40 members
and will be juried. The art association is at 1516 S. Crashrook Road,
Birmingham, Evergreen at 14 Mile
Road. For more information, call
644-0866.



condo queries Robert M. Melsner

Q. I have read recently about site indominium projects, and I may condominium projects, and I may wish to develop the acreage which I own now as a condominium if I can own now as a condominium if avoid the plat act. What has your experience in this regard?

A. Site condominiums are being developed, particularly in Oakland County, without very much opposition from the local municipalities. There is, of course, the question of whether or not a site condominium is an attempt to circumvent the plat act but there is some authority in the condominium statute that would support the basis for a site condominium. However, there are numerous problems that can attach to the development of a site condominium. However, there are numerous method are not normally the case in a regular condominium. It is extraordinarily important, therefore, that you insure that the condominium documents provide the developer and, thereafter, the association with architectural control over the nature of the condominium units constructed. More on this in future columns.

Q. A co-owner in our condominium has allowed her dog to run loose in the common areas. There is a prohi-bition against all dogs in the con-

681-5700 681-5700

5243.000 544- 4700 644-4700

dominium. The board has, with limdominium. The board has, with the ited exceptions, vigorously enforced the dog restriction. The only excep-tion was because of health reasons of one (1) co-owner. Can the board now enforce the restriction?

A. Of course each case depends A. Of course each case depends upon the circumstances, but it would appear that if the board consistently appear that if the board consistently enforced the bylaw restriction then a slight variation from the policy, because of extraordinary reasons, should not prevent the board from the effectively pursuing the claim against the dog owner and, if necessary, obtaining injunctive relief. While selective enforcement of the documents is new so. Invalid, there white selective enforcement or the documents is, per se, invalid, there are degrees, of course, of selective enforcement depending upon the cir-cumstances, and a court may well find in behalf of the association.

Robert M. Meisner is a Bir Robert M. Meismer is a Bir-mingham attorney specializing in condominiums, real estate and corporate law, Questions should be directed to Robert Meismer, 30200 Telegraph, Suite 487, Bir-mingham, Mich. 48010. This col-umn provides general informa-tion and should not be construed as legal opinion.



FOUR BEDROOM BRICK COLONIAL Neathy kept colonial convenient location. Central air, 2½ baths, full basement, di













BOUTH LYON 13478 Surnec Dr., \$134,900 WATERFORD 5104 Cohoctah, \$69,900 5115 Cohoctah, \$78,500

OPEN SUNDAY 2 TO 5 P.M.

477-1111 477-1111 n C1., \$125,50 and TON HELE (1990)
MINISTON HELE (1990)
Claimew, \$139,900
Richmond Hell, \$157,900
Richmond Hell, \$157,900
Richmond Hell, \$157,900
Colgate, \$85,900
Loris Cl., \$237,900
Light Male Rd., \$139,900
Light Male Rd., \$139,000
Light Male Rd., \$139,000
Light Male Rd., \$139,000
Light Male Rd., \$139,900
Lig 477-1311 477-1911 477-1911 477-1911 477-1911 477-1911 477-1911 477-1911 681-5700 851-1900 651-1900 651-1900 651-1900 vikeler, \$179,000 URD LAKE 644-4700

MRS. CLEAN LIVES HERE, immaculate 3 maintenance free - 2 full baths - finished Fenced vard. Won't last, Make

• Real Estate Onc. INC.

WEST BLOOMFIELD 4205 Strathdele, 8573,000 4079 Winterset, 8289,000 6327 Tamerians, 8139,900 2112 Hidden Lake, \$154,900 6877 Chimney Hill, \$109,900 3834 Etder, \$234,500 7221 Westbury, \$182,900 ROYAL DAR 4324 Robinsod, \$84,900 \$YLVAN LAKE 1928 Sheneood, \$72,500 SOUTHWELD 23240 Monningside, \$248,900 30376 Rock Creek, \$95,000 21245 Van Buren, \$95,000 4052 Golf Ridge, \$219,000 851-1900 644-4700 MICHIGAN'S LARGEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY

FARMINGTON HILLS 38998 Dartmoor Dr., \$122,900 30022 Twelve Mae, \$49,900 477-1111 WEST BLOOMFIELD 5231 Rock Run, \$129,000













COMMERCIAL 353. 4:00 LATHRUP VILLAGE 559-2300 WESTLAND 326-2000 FARMINGTON 477-1111 FARMINGTON HILLS 851-1900 LIVONIA 261-0700 PLYMOUTH/CANTON 455-7000 NORTHVILLE 144-04-30