

briefly speaking

• SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL
The Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans will present the 18th annual Summer Arts Festival Wednesday, July 20 through Saturday, July 23, in downtown Ann Arbor. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The guild's festival features 540 of the finest artists from all over the country.

The Summer Arts Festival is the largest of the three fairs that comprise the "Ann Arbor Art Fair." The three art festivals jointly attract over 500,000 visitors to Ann Arbor during the four days.

• FIVE SENSES
Special activities during the Ann Arbor Arts Festival will be offered by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum for children ages 5-10 while parents browse at the art fair.

Children may participate in supervised hands-on science activities 1:30-4:30 p.m. all four days. Cost per session is \$10. Preregistration is necessary. Focus of the activities will be a science safari.

Weekend demonstrations for the month of July will explore the world of sensory perception and the role our five senses play in it. Visitors will be able to sniff mystery smells, identify sounds and map their tongues for sweet, sour and bitter. Demonstrations are held at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays.

Weeklong summer classes are also being offered. For more information, call 955-5459.

• PHOTO CONTEST
Amateur photographers may participate in the photography contest and exhibit being sponsored by Livonia Mall July 18-24. Grand prize will be \$500. Either color or black and white entries will be accepted. Prints must be 8-by-10 or larger, mounted and matted. There is no limit on the number of photographs an individual may submit.

Entries should be sent or delivered to the Livonia Mall Merchants Association, 29514 Seven Mile, Livonia, on or before 6 p.m. July 15. A fee of \$2 per photograph is required. Entry blanks are available at the mall management office.

• OLDE TYME SUMMER
"Olde Tyme Summer in the Country Folk Art Show and Sale" will be Friday-Sunday, July 15-17 in the new Flint IMA Sports Arena, Intersection of I-69 at Center Road.

Among the area artists participating in the show will be Debra Stoops who will display cut and pierced lampshades. Approximately 70 craftsmen will take part in the juried show. Special features will include demonstrations by several of the folk artists and guest lectures on basketmaking, spinning and weaving.

• ART AT MEADOW BROOK
Three area artists will be among the artists and artisans taking part in the Art at Meadow Brook scheduled for Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 20 and 21. Taking part will be Cynde and Ernest Friday of Livonia and Francis J. Baker of Plymouth. There is no admission charge for the event held in the courtyard and gardens of Meadow Brook Hall, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester.

• PHOTO CONTEST
Wonderland Mall invites all dog owners to enter its "No Bones About It" photo contest.

All you have to do is submit an 8-by-10-inch black and white or color photograph of your dog. Entry forms are available at the Wonderland Mall information booth. Deadline is Friday, July 1.

The Humane Society will select five finalist photographs from all the entries submitted. Judging criteria will be based on the photograph's originality.

Once the five finalists have been selected, they will be on display at the information booth July 8-17. During this time, the public may vote on their favorite photo. It will cost \$1 per vote and the photo that receives the most votes will win a "doggie bag" filled with treats, compliments of the Humane Society. All dollars collected from the votes will be donated to the Humane Society.

The winner will be announced Sunday, July 17.

Wonderland is in Livonia at the corner of Plymouth and Middlebelt roads.

• LIFEWAYS EXHIBIT
Lifeways: Photography of Juanita Anderson and James Dozier, approximately 25 color photographs will be on view at the National Conference of Artists Gallery through Saturday, July 23.

Through images taken in Senegal, Brazil and Detroit, Lifeways explores the endurance and excitement of world cultures. Lifeways is open to the public during regular gallery hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. For more information, call 964-5775.

By Arlene Funke
Special writer

Michelle Reska of Livonia was stunned to learn about the rich legacy of unheralded female artists.

"It was an eye-opener," said Reska, a 21-year-old senior majoring in commercial art and journalism at Madonna College.

Reska is one of eight Madonna students who took a "Women in Art" course, then produced an exhibit in which they copied a favorite female artist's work.

The exhibit was on display in the exhibit gallery in the Madonna College library wing.

The students reproduced the works of such diverse women artists as American landscape painter Georgia O'Keeffe, German artist Katha Kollwitz, whose work reflects a strong anti-war stance, and Canadian nature artist Emily Carr.

Reska, a graduate of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, chose to copy "Le Passage," by surrealist artist Kay Sage.

The painting, in soft blues and grays, has a haunting, lonely quality. "It depicts the back of a girl looking out into a vast plain of emptiness," Reska said. "I feel like her, sometimes, lonely. I can relate to her."

The challenge, Reska said, was in finding information about women artists. Many were largely ignored by art historians, and little written material was available about them.

"THEY WEREN'T THOUGHT OF as much and not much was written about them," Reska said.

The class, which recently completed its inaugural semester, and the exhibit were conceived by Madonna art professor Loretta Hubley.

"It used to be history books didn't include any women artists," said Hubley, 37, of Ann Arbor on staff at Madonna for nine years.

"When I was in school they didn't talk (about women)," she added. "You had to identify with men for

self-survival. I wanted to have a class dedicated to women artists."

According to Hubley, some early female artists signed their fathers' or teachers' names to their pictures because "they could sell the painting better."

One enterprising French artist donned men's clothing to gain entry to males-only horse shows so she could do research for her work.

In the final analysis, art overcomes prejudice, Hubley said.

"They treat you, in the end, by what you do, not how you look," Hubley said. "That isn't true in the business world."

Hubley spent almost one year researching books that included women artists, both well-known and obscure. The course used many slides of women artists' paintings, sculpture and photography.

THE SMALL CLASS OF eight students, including one male, combined artistic techniques with historical perspective. They studied the bodies of work of such artists as Georgia O'Keeffe, acclaimed for the purity, harmony and femininity of her desert landscapes and floral scenes, impressionist Mary Cassatt and surrealist Kay Sage.

Also studied were the memorable photographs of World War II-era Life magazine photographer Margaret Bourke-White and of photographer Diane Arbus, who specialized in shots of bizarre, offbeat characters.

"Their families are different," Hubley said of the female perspective expressed in art.

"The students were surprised," she added. "They didn't know about all those women artists. Many were unaware of (the existence of) discrimination. It's important for them to be able to understand the difficulties."

The students chose the focus of the exhibit.

"Each student decided to make a perfect copy, rather than an interpretation," Hubley said.



Student Lori Rafferty (left), assistant professor Loretta Hubley, and student Michelle Reska stand in front of one of the display cases for "Women Artists: A Selected Historical Review."

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