

street seen

Charlene Mitchell



1 lump or 2?

Yes, anyone? And from wonderful, whimsical tenpots, it's even more delightful. These are by Animals & Co. who do cast porcelain dogs, cats, rabbits and hen in an adorable way or just to show that you have a sense of being young at heart. For salient lovers and tea drinks alike. \$115. Ariana Gallery, 388 E. Maple, Birmingham.

Shirt off art's back

More tabletop art for conversation pieces are these ceramic T-shirts and paper-bag sculptures ranging from \$18 to \$30. In the Public Eye, 3200 Franklin Road, Franklin.

Alarming signal

It's a clock by gosh, and when the alarm goes off to wake you, it's the sound of a passing train. This mini version of an alarm clock crossing pots and pans is very unique and blends with any decor. \$25. The Male Room/The Boardwalk, Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.



Don't chicken out

Chickens worn this new line of hanging cards by artist Elizabeth Green. The finished sets of everything from play basketball to stepping into the shower. They are a great approach to a traditional wedding card. The inside is blank for you to write your own message. If you can't order them in person, they have them printed on-line. \$12.50. Elizabeth Green, Handwritten, Franklin, Macquet Club Pro-Shop, Southfield.

STREET SENSE

Don't hate yourself, get help

Dear Barbara,

I've written and rewritten letters to you and haven't sent any. I am a very vulgar person. I can honestly say I hate myself. I have two wonderful children. I don't want them to feel the same way I do. I have a very hard time expressing love or feelings to them. I know I need help, but who do I turn to.

Karen

Dear Karen,

I'm glad you have been able to send this letter and hope that you will now go the next difficult step and take my advice.

Although I have said that my policy in this column would be not to copy out and recommend treatment, a responsible handling of your situation demands that I do.

There are a number of ways that you can find help. Often asking a close friend who has had successful treatment is the best way. You can ask your family physician. If both these ways would reveal more about yourself than you care to at this time, the Michigan Psychiatric Society has a referral number - 552-8666 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. They will give you the names of three psychiatrists in your area. Because you sound so hopeless, I

am afraid you will not feel strong enough to take my advice. Will it motivate you? I know that others like yourself have found help. If you would like a more individualized answer, please send me further information and your address and I will reply with a personal letter.

Barbara

If you have a question for Barbara Schiff, trained counselor and experience therapist, send it to Street Sense, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



Barbara Schiff

School 'lofts' become artists' haven

Continued from Page 1

Besides catering to art patrons, the group also interacts with the surrounding community. One of the tenants, the Steve Dearing Detroit Dance company, has performed three shows at St. Charles Catholic Church. Teenage boys from a foster care facility in Detroit drop in once a week for lessons from the artists.

But the biggest advantage, for the artists themselves, is the freedom and space to create their "masterpieces."

"I couldn't find anything affordable in the suburbs," Marion said. "Here, I have adequate space and I don't have to worry about keeping it neat."

A 1981 graduate of Lahser High School and a 1985 graduate of the Center for Creative Studies' College of Art and Design, Marion exhibited his work last fall at the Broadway Gallery in Harmonie Park. He wants to amass a sizable collection of sculptures and eventually find a gallery to showcase his work.

Marion juxtaposes machine imagery with organic forms, especially petals, in both small and large sculptures. His 8-foot-tall piece looks like a palm tree or, as he said, "spiral shapes ascending to heaven."

He plans to suspend a caged form from the ceiling to represent the machine imagery. The message: "Man manipulating and abusing his environment."

Albert Young, 37, a former Birmingham resident, is concerned with similar issues in his art.

Young's recent works are objects found in industrial settings and on the streets. He calls them "Industrial Fetters" because he has a "fetish for them," he said.

"JUST IMAGINE yourself walking down an alley in Detroit and finding one of these," he muses, pointing to a rusty auger, once used for boring holes in the ground.

"Some found objects are just perfect," he said. "There's nothing you can do to improve them. It represents the waste that man has left behind, remnants of the industrial age."

"In most of my work, I deal with destruction. I'm not a doomsayer. But I believe we're poisoning the earth, and we don't have any way of stopping it."

A 1982 graduate of the Center for Creative Studies, Young earned his master of fine arts degree in 1985 from Wayne State University. In 1982, he rented space from the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and opened his own company, S & Y Hot Glass, to make commercial and art glass.

Two years ago, he moved into a house downtown. He rented studio space at St. Charles for nearly a year, then moved to a larger facility.

"I'm not a yuppie or a family person," he said. "I like being around artists. We develop camaraderie and experience things together."

Jeff Hale, 28, also likes the feedback he receives from other artists. He left Rochester last May because he "wanted to get more in the flow of the art world."

'Painting can get lonely. Here, I'm not so isolated and alone.'

— Alan Paulson

"It's (St. Charles) like a support group. We do talk about our business problems — handling galleries, doing shows. We (critique) each other's work."

And, the enjoy the night life. Many of the artists hang out at the Michigan gallery near Tiger Stadium and listen to music and poetry readings. A few of them exhibit their works at the gallery.

A CERAMICIST, Hale has shown his work at the Cado Gallery in Royal Oak, Detroit Artists Market, Pewabic Pottery in Detroit, Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester and the Art Gallery.

Since moving to Detroit, he has changed the size and nature of his work. "I'm starting to make larger, more important pieces for public installations," he said. "I'm trying to develop more sculptural form with clay." (Previously, he created smaller raku pieces.)

In his latest series of works, he uses a technique that originates from the Indians. "They would use a bonfire instead of a kiln," he explained.

"I tried the pit-firing method. Sometimes, pieces would break during firing."

Out of curiosity, he glued the broken remnants together and liked the result. "It was a happy accident," he

said. Now, Hale regularly smashes wheel-thrown, bisque-fired pots into pieces, fires the fragments with straw and sawdust, then reconstructs them with epoxy glue and air brushes dyes onto the vessels. He calls them "future relics" because they look as if "they could have been made yesterday or 100 years ago."

Alan Paulson, 27, started out studying sculpture, then switched to painting large portraits. He graduated from the Center for Creative Studies in 1987.

Paulson grew up in Westland and attended Livonia public schools. In the fall of 1986, he had an opportunity to participate in the New York Studio Program through the Alliance of Independent Colleges of Art. For four months, they studied in loft/warehouses with visiting artists.

WHEN HE returned from New York, he moved back into his parents' Westland home. But he wanted to capture that Manhattan experience again. "I like the city," he said. "The suburbs are so sterile."

A year ago, he discovered the St. Charles community. "Painting can get lonely," he said. "Here, I'm not so isolated and alone."

Fine 'art': Portable potential

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HER PICTURE taking drew stares from passers-by and smart-aleck shouts from passing cars. Along with her camera equipment, Jeffrey carried a king-sized white sheet and two poles. She hung the sheet between the poles behind her toilet subjects to block out unwanted ground.

Often she got help setting up from her parents or her boyfriend, she said. At school, classmates offered tips.

"A lot of people would come up to me and say 'Jillie, I saw this great Porta-John,' or 'Jillie I saw this Porta-John and it reminded me of you.'"

She had a list of more than a dozen area companies that distribute various brands of the receptacles.

And as Jeffrey began taking pictures she began to see there really are differences.

"I just started to notice how there are so many different types," she said.

She photographed orange ones, blue ones, white ones, orange and blue ones, yellow ones and gray ones. "They're kind of like sculpture. If you don't know their function," she said.

Jeffrey included 17 photographs in her final project, which she displayed in December outside the CCS cafeteria where, she noted with a chuckle, people had to see them.

SHE HUNG her 17 photographs in one of three portable toilets that rental companies donated for the event.

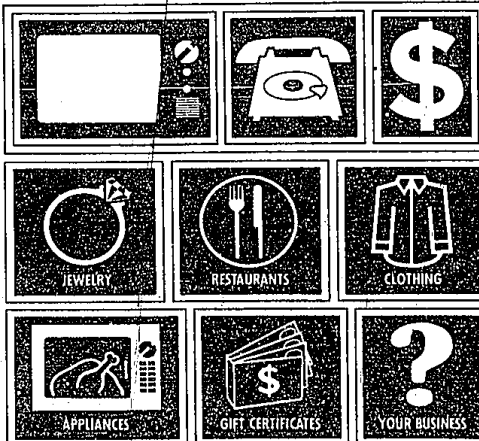
"It caused quite a stir," Jeffrey said. "They called me the Porta-John Queen."

Jeffrey got an "A" in the class, by the way, and is now planning her latest class project. The subject is car trailers from the 1950s and 1960s. She is scouring country roads searching for her subject, she said.

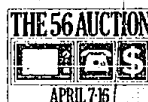
She has not said if the portable toilet study for now but hopes to return to it someday.

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