

briefly speaking

ROTHAMEL EXHIBIT

Livonia artist Susan Pickering Rothamel has two things on tap at Jacobson's Livonia store. One will be a seminar from 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18, on "Art Education," in which she will discuss how to select artwork.

The second event will be the opening of a monthlong exhibit of her artwork. A reception honoring the artist will take place from 6-9 p.m. Friday in the store's second floor art gallery. The public may attend; however, reservations are suggested by calling 591-7696, Ext. 294.

FINE ARTS SALE/EXHIBIT

The Garden City Fine Arts Association's 13th annual art exhibit and sale will be held during regular hours in the community's public library, 2021 Middlebelt Road from May 15-20, with the exception of Friday, May 19, when the library is closed.

MELODY OF HOMES

Nine distinctive homes plus the newly renovated Mayflower Hotel suites will be featured in "A Melody of Homes" tour sponsored by the Plymouth Symphony League from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 19. Tickets are \$12. For more information, call 459-1358.

Readers asked to share memories of Meadow Brook

What do you think of when thoughts of Meadow Brook Music Festival come to mind? We'd like to know — and share those nostalgic memories with other readers.

Once again, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will publish a special section detailing highlights — both past and present — of the outdoor musical event that has been held on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester for the past 25 years. It will appear in all editions on Thursday, June 1.

A part of the section that proved popular last year was a column on Meadow Brook Memories gleaned from letters from readers who have attended the concerts through the years. We want to repeat it again this year. Letters chosen for publication will receive two free tickets to a Meadow Brook concert. Send your letters to Meadow Brook Memories, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

ART SHOW

In commemoration of National Nursing Home Week, Westland Convalescent Center, 36137 Warren, will host a week-long art show in the courtyard sitting room with the cooperation of the Dearborn Council of the Arts. The public is invited to drop by during the day to view the artwork.

SCRAPS OF LIFE

Arpilleras — small appliqued and embroidered wall hangings that show scenes of daily life in Chile — are on exhibit at the Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery now through July 8.

This folk craft has become a tool of the women in Chile, many of whose husbands or sons have "disappeared" to expose and protest the repressiveness of the Pinochet dictatorship.

The gallery is at 45 E. Adams on Grand Circus Park, opposite the People Mover station in the Whitney Building. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. For more information, call 965-5422.

PIPPIN PUPPETS

The Livonia Arts Commission will offer the Pippin Puppets in a show at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 13, in Civic Center Library, Livonia. Admission is \$1. Tickets are available at the library during regular library hours. Seating is limited.

VILLAGE ANTIQUE SHOW

Dealers from across the nation display a variety of high quality antiques for sale at the annual Village Antiques Show May 12-14 in Lovett Hall at Greenfield Village. Proceeds will support museum and village educational programs that benefit children. Admission is \$5.

ART ON AVENUE

Over 100 artists and craftspeople, featuring watercolors, oils, photography, jewelry, pottery, woodcraft, glass and more, will take part in Art on the Avenue Friday-Saturday, May 13-14 on Garrison Avenue at Military in West Dearborn. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

GRADUATE ART SHOW

Madonna College, Livonia, is hosting a graduate senior art show from May 12-25 in the Exhibit Gallery, Library Wing. An opening reception will be held 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, May 12. There is no admission charge and the public is invited. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Find opportunities for abstracts

The word "abstract" means apart from the recognizable object. This opens up a realm of photographic opportunities.

Shooting abstracts is a terrific exercise in enhancing your photographic vision, which in turn will greatly improve your picture-taking abilities.

A good place to begin is with architectural subjects. All the construction going on in the area provides a wealth of abstract, subject material. An isolated section of steel beams, reflections in glass panels or a geometric curve in a building corner all lend themselves well to abstract photography.

A GOOD way to make abstract pictures is to exclude part of the subject. We tend to identify objects by their whole. We recognize their outlines and the context in which we find them.

A hot air balloon, for example, is easily recognized when we photograph it in its entirety coasting through the skies. But close cropping and unconventional framing of just a section of the balloon as it sits on the ground can produce a photograph of bold color and tight pattern that will make viewers guess what they're looking at.

Try using slow shutter speeds to form abstracts. Colorful clothes hung out to dry in a breeze will produce a formless blur when a long shutter speed is used. Or try intentionally moving the camera up and down as you shoot a field of flowers. You'll be pleased with the abstract results.

PHOTOGRAPH STILL lives through heavily textured glass for another kind of abstract feeling. A scrap of shower door glass obtained from your local glass dealer works fine.

Consider photographing your subject completely out of focus to where it may barely be recognized. There's no end to the possibilities for abstracts.

Nature abounds with abstract subjects, from the close pattern of veins in a single leaf to the vast array of geometric designs seen from an airplane.

I was recently photographing in one of the "slot" canyons near Page, Ariz., when I saw the scene in the accompanying photograph. It struck



photography
Monte Nagler



Antelope Canyon near Page, Ariz., provided Monte Nagler with a truly abstract photograph which he has titled "Canyon Landscape."

me right away as an immense landscape complete with waves, a luminescent mountain and a dramatic, black sky.

In actuality, I was wedged in a 3-foot section of the canyon, barely possible and with barely

enough room to set up my tripod, looking straight up one of the sheer walls. This abstract is one of my favorite photographs from the trip.

So begin to think in abstract terms. Look through your camera that way, too.

Treat mom to a walk amid wild flowers

You can create a special Mother's Day treat by accompanying your mother on a Cranbrook Mother's Day Wildflower Walk at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May

14, at Cranbrook Nature Sanctuary on Pontiac Trail, west of Old Orchard Lake. Trillium, May apple and Jack-in-the-pulpit

will enliven the 45-minute strolls through wooded hills and open meadow.

Parking for the sanctuary, known for its many varieties of

beautiful wildflowers and breathtaking flora and fauna, is across Pontiac Trail at Whitney Bloomfield Nursery School. For more information, call 645-3230.

per person may be paid at the sanctuary. Participants should be prepared for muddy conditions.

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