

Suburban Life

Loraine McClish editor/477-5450



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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Lena Massara, who experiments with both color and media, is 1990's Artist-in-Residence.

Artist-in-Residence

The arts commission hands out its most prestigious awards

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

Lena Massara sees herself as an unlikely candidate for Farmington Artist in Residence. But the Farmington Area Arts Commission begs to differ. This year the group awarded her the title.

"It's a real treat. I feel like I've died and gone to heaven," said the Farmington Hills artist. "It's a real honor."

Massara receives the title formally during a reception Sunday. Her abstract still lifes and landscapes incorporate her fascination with texture, shape and colors.

Although she accommodates clients who commission realistic works, she prefers to experiment with abstract forms.

"Abstracts are very challenging. They always start off with a real subject, a real shape," she said. Then the landscape forms a life of its own, transmuting into different

textures and colors.

Her works are included in the Farmington Artists Club's annual spring art exhibit May 9-12 in Nardin Park Methodist Church.

One such landscape began as a realistic rendering of a scene in the Leelanau Peninsula. Then she added her own choice of vivid color.

"I had no qualms about destroying it and then bringing it back," she said.

Often she'll tackle two realistic paintings and slash them with an X-acto knife. Massara weaves the two paintings together to produce a single textured abstract work.

SHE AND HER husband Gregory

Massara have four grown children. A soft spoken woman, she prefers calm earth tones and blues. Recently she wore a violet sweater that almost matches the colors she used in an abstract painting of poppies.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jeri Fellwock, winner of 1990's Distinguished Service to the Arts Award, poses besides her miniature gingerbread cottage which she says

building and furnishing has become a time consuming hobby.

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

JERI FELLWOCK, who has a one woman show hanging in Farmington Branch Library this month, will receive the 1990 Distinguished Service to the Arts Award from Farmington Area Arts Commission.

Fellwock is given the award based on the time and talent she's given to the Picture Lady Program, which aims to enrich young students with an appreciation of art.

Fellwock has never been a Picture Lady, one of the women who go into a class armed with a portfolio of prints to talk to the children about the artist or the subject at hand.

She began Picture Lady work by delivering the art portfolios to the schools, became the chairwoman for the Farmington Area Picture Lady Program and has stuck to the administrative end of it with board membership on the Metropolitan Picture Lady Program.

Her job involves all of the coordi-

nation of the coming and going of the 100 portfolios that circulate among the participating elementary schools. Her job is to see that each portfolio is equipped with the artists' biographies, information about the artists or their paintings that can be used by the Picture Ladies to make the enrichment class as informative and as enjoyable as possible.

With the help of her enormous art library and reference books getting

the portfolios reorganized and in tip-top shape for the next go-around has taken as much as her entire basement for one entire summer.

FELLWOCK laughs when she says "I got into this because I have a hard time saying no. When they ask for volunteers my hand goes up."

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Picture Lady

A dedication to art enrichment

Reception honors award recipients

Lena Massara and Jeri Fellwock will receive guests 3-5 p.m. Sunday in the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

The reception honoring the Artist-in-Residence for 1990 and the recipient of the Distinguished Service to

the Arts Award is sponsored by the Farmington Area Arts Commission so members of the community may meet the honorees.

The formal program for the afternoon is scheduled to begin at 4:45 p.m.