

Couple presses to publish contemporary poetry

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When they ran out of money, the couple began sending packets of materials to subscribers for a set fee. This approach covered their costs. It gave themselves and the artists the freedom to choose any format they wished. The subscription service continues today at \$15 for a once-a-year mailing.

The Mikolowskis combine contemporary poetry with carefully chosen paper, typeface and ink color, often using a wood block, linoleum block or photo engraving as well. The interplay of the visual and verbal is well-thought-out and often subtle.

A poem called "Wedding," by Donna Brook, is printed like a simple, elegant wedding invitation. "Chabod," by Robert Hershon, is printed on brown paper with a shadowy, gangly darker brown figure near the title. And their noted tongue-in-cheek bumper sticker "NEW HOPE/For the Dead," by William Matthews, is accompanied by some tasteless lilies.

THE MIKOLOWSKIS publish their own work and that of other respected artists and poets, including Faye Klenkowsky, Allen Ginsberg, Andrei Codrescu, Robert Creeley, Paul Schwarz, Robert Bly, Betty

Brownlee and Bill Berkson. They're friends of John Sinclair, and printed several of his poems written at Marquette Prison.

In the late '70s, the couple added an innovative twist to their subscription packages: original postcards. They sent each artist or writer who was interested 500 blank postcards printed on the back with their name and the name of the press. They asked them — challenged them — to create 500 original works of art, alone or in collaboration with someone else.

The result has been a tremendously varied and original array of postcards, many forming a series. Marilyn Schechter painted designs in purple, blue, red and mauve on embossed paper and attached to each a shiny smooth ceramic piece. Betty Brownlee did a series of collages combining hearts, glitter and lace doilies in yellow, reds and oranges. Faye Klenkowsky contributed 500 original poems adorned with her own simple pictures.

Although their work ranges from short, humorous poems to love poems to political pieces, each combines words and images in striking ways.

"WE'RE NOT interested in obscure poetry," Ken said. "We want a sense of immediacy, a transference

of energy from writer to reader. Painting and music and poetry, they all produce a spark. And people are surprised when it does hit them."

The Mikolowskis are working within a tradition of collaboration between artists and writers that can be seen in the Dada and Surrealist movements and elsewhere.

Doug Semlitz, assistant professor of art at Madonna and a longtime friend of the Mikolowskis, feels they've added a great deal to that tradition. And he admires their long and continuing commitment to it.

"I'm just incredibly impressed that Ann and Ken have really done this, and for no other reason than they love it," Semlitz said. "They haven't made any money at it. The contribution is just incredible. It's a national treasure."

That contribution was recognized in a two-month exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts this past spring. Titled "Art Poetry Melodrama: 20 Years of The Alternative Press," it was part of the Ongoing Michigan Artists Program.

A retrospective exhibit, like the one at the DIA or the current one at Madonna, is perhaps as much of an education for the Mikolowskis as anyone else. As they

take 20 years worth of work out of manilla folders, it gives them a perspective on the past.

MUCH HAS changed in 20 years. The hair is shorter and grayer. They've raised two children, Michael, 27, who is also an artist, and Molly, 17. They've moved twice, to Grand Rapids in Michigan's thumb in 1974 and then to Ann Arbor in 1988 when Ken was offered a full-time job teaching at the Residential College at the University of Michigan.

The Mikolowskis have also found other outlets for their craft in addition to The Alternative Press. Ann exhibits her paintings, primarily landscapes and miniature portraits of people who have inspired her, at the Joy Emery Gallery in Grosse Pointe. She is also an artist-in-residence in the Pinckney Schools. Ken's third book of poetry will be published in December by Past Tense Press.

But even though much has happened in 20 years, the Mikolowskis can also look over their work and see that they've remained committed to their original goal.

That goal is perhaps best summed up in one of the postcards in the collection, by poet/artist Bill Berkson: "When poetry meets painting, you begin to know about art."

exhibitions

This column runs weekly in *Creative Living*. Send news items about Oakland County events to The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Send items about Wayne County events to The Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Attention: Creative Living editor.

● DANIELLE PELEG GALLERY

Sunday, Nov. 18 — One-day exhibition of Erte jewelry will be noon to 5 p.m. Erte was born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1892 and is considered the master of Art Deco. He is one of the most popular 20th-century artists. Crosswinds Mall, 4301 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 103, West Bloomfield.

● THE ARTISTS' GALLERY

Friday, Nov. 23 — Juried holiday show continues through Dec. 24. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. From Dec. 13, hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Applegate Square, Northwestern Highway, between 12 and 13 Mile, Southfield.

● FEIGENSON/PRESTON GALLERY

Saturday, Nov. 24 — New paintings by Joseph Bernard are on display through Jan. 5. Reception for the artist 2-5 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 786 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● PAINT CREEK CENTER

Saturday, Nov. 24 — Exhibit by Flint artists John Dempsey, Pat Mathison and Alan Zinn in the main gallery and "New Art Fun-house" of gift items by professionals in Artspace. Reception 7-9 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 407 Pine, Rochester.

● SWIDER GALLERY

Saturday, Nov. 24 — Ceramic vessels and wall constructions by Lucy Breslin and Frank Martin continue through Dec. 22 along with display of gift items of ceramic and jewelry. Opening reception 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, until 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Washington Square Plaza, 308 W. Fourth, Royal Oak.

● TOUCH OF LIGHT

Saturday, Nov. 24 — Holiday show of glass by John Fitzpatrick includes vases, plates, perfume bottles, ornaments and paperweights. Continues through December. Hours are noon to 5 p.m., 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, 1-8 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 23426 Woodward, Ferndale.

● HARRIS STREET ANTIQUES

Saturday, Nov. 24 — Internationally known folk artist, B. Bourgeois-Richards, original watercolor and limited edition prints, will be at the gallery 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 32 Mile and Van Dyke, Romeo. For information, call 752-9860.

● BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART ASSOCIATION

Monday, Nov. 26 — Holiday sales show continues through Dec. 3. This annual event, free of charge, features wall-to-wall gifts by a lot of artists from a wide area, at least half are new to the show this year. Preview party 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25, \$5 at the door. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 1516 S. Cranbrook at 14 Mile, Birmingham.

● SUSANNE HILBERY GALLERY

Paintings by Cay Bahamond are on display through Jan. 5. He was born in Detroit in 1955 and still lives there. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 706 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

● LEMBERG GALLERY

The Reflections Series by Roy Lichtenstein will be on display through Dec. 15. The works are mixed-media prints — lithography, screenprint, woodcut, embossed PVC plastic film, collage, and embossing. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 538 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● DONNA JACOBS GALLERY

"Holiday show — 1990" continues through December. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 574 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● GOLDEN POND

Holiday exhibit includes wildlife paintings by Ken Albertson, Harold Clay, George Crabes, Joyce Dunsteth and Carlene Lagrou and a large collection of sculpture and

carvings of fossilized walrus, mammoth, and bison ivory and sculpture. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, until 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, 730 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● SUMMIT PLACE

Large scale Lionel train display is on display through Jan. 21. It is on a 28' foot stage in front of Penny's. Open during regular mall hours, Telegraph and Elizabeth Lake roads, Waterford.

● ROBERT KIDD GALLERY

New paintings by George Kozmon and painted constructions by Ron Isaacs are on display through Dec. 15. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 107 Townsend, Birmingham.

● OCC-ORCHARD RIDGE

Ninth annual Helen DeRoy Art Exhibit is on display at the Smith Theatre Art Gallery through Nov. 21. More than 100 paintings were submitted and 45 of them were chosen for the exhibit by Lester Johnson, professor of fine arts, Center for Creative Studies. The College is on Orchard Road, just south of 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

● SOUTHFIELD CIVIC CENTER

Works by three computer artists, Jack Bergeron, Laura Lee Hayes and Bob Brill, are on display through Nov. 12 in the Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield. All three artists have a background in the arts.

● CRANBROOK MUSEUM

"Cranbrook Design: The New Discourse," curated by Kathy and Mary McCoy continues through Jan. 28. Includes 150 works by faculty, alumni and students, 1980-1990.

"Bill Viola: Room for St. John of the Cross," a video/sound installation will be on display Saturday, Nov. 17 through Jan. 27. The exhibit was inspired by the poems of the Spanish mystic and ascetic, St. John of the Cross and his ability to transcend his imprisonment in a tiny windowless cell for nine months. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Admission charge, 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

● ARTPACK SERVICES

"Art Furniture for Everyday Living," presented by the Janis Weisman Collection continues through Dec. 8. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Dates are Nov. 23, 24, 20 and Dec. 1, 6, 7, 8. There are works by 16 artists on display, 31505 Grand River, Door No. 10, Farmington.

● DETROIT FOCUS

"Review Committee Selections" with works by DiGracie Jackson, Russ Marshall and Gerd Serra are on display through Dec. 21. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 743 Beaubien, Detroit.

● NELSON'S GALLERY

"People Watching with artist Thomas Dyer" continues through December. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 16376 Middlebelt, Livonia.

● SHELDRON ROSS GALLERY

Watercolors and collages by American artist, Sheldon Ross will be on display through December. This is the gallery's eighth exhibit of Bearden's work and the first since his death in 1988. Gallery hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 259 Marjorie, Birmingham.

● PEWABIC POTTERY

"Holiday Invitational" continues through December. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 9 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

● GALLERY 454

Raku sculpture by Susan and Steven Kamenyoff will be on display through Dec. 8. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, until 8 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 15105 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

● THE FRAMEWORKS

Johanne Crosby's watercolor paintings are on display through November at The Frameworks, on Pennington, Plymouth. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sunday.

● ATRIUM GALLERY

Now on display through the holidays: unique ornaments, glass, porcelain, wood,

fiber. New jewelry: silver, inlaid stone, architecturally designed cloisonne. Table foundations. New clay sculptures. Keith Baker, award-winning horses and figures. New decorative pieces from Eugene Krolak, John Martin, Jeff Hale, Glass: Stuart Shulman, David Leppia, Bruce Boatman, Henry Beyer, Marilyn Blinder: new selection of work. 118 N. Center, Northville. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

● RUBINER GALLERY

Paintings/watercolor/drawings by Richard Jerry, professor of art at the Center for Creative Studies, are on display through November. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 7001 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield.

● LINDA HAYMAN GALLERY

Handpainted floor canvases and chair covers by Fran Rubenstein are on display through Nov. 21. The use of primary colors and geometric shapes to create her striking works of art. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 8 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 32500 Northwestern, south of 14 Mile, Farmington Hills.

● BELIAN ART CENTER

Works on paper by Susan Hinds are on display through Nov. 24, 5980 Rochester Road, Troy.

● ELIZABETH STONE GALLERY

Original paintings by Marc Brown for his book, "The Family Read-Aloud Christmas Treasury," are on display to Nov. 21. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 580 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● LAWRENCE STREET GALLERY

"Animal Dreams," a one-person show by artist/post Donato Moro of Grand Rapids, continues through Dec. 14. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 29 W. Lawrence, Pontiac.

● PRESTON BURKE GALLERIES INC.

"Images of Detroit" by Clayton Lewis continues through November, 240 E. Grand River, Detroit.

● SYBARIS GALLERY

"Metals," featuring furniture, sculpture and vessel forms by six of the country's best-known metalsmiths, continues through December. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 301 W. Fourth, Royal Oak.

● JOY EMERY GALLERY

"Furniture/Sculpture," works by eight nationally known artists, continues through December. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, until 8 p.m. Thursday, 131 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

● ROUTE 10 GALLERY

Functional and non-functional furniture, paintings and installations by Judith Ann Corba and Natas van Krijdt will be on display through November. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday and until 9 p.m. Thursday, 32430 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills.

● CHINESE CULTURAL CENTER

"China: Impressions and Dreams," recent paintings by renowned Chinese dissident artist Yoncum Li (also known as Bu Yun). Continues through November. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The exhibit is hosted by the Chinese American Educational and Cultural Center, 2300 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor.

● U-M DEARBORN

"Spatial Visions: Paintings by Linda and Donald Mendelson" will be on display through Dec. 2 in the Mandarin Library, Evergreen Road between Ford and Michigan, Dearborn. She teaches at the Center for Creative Studies and he's on the Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge art faculty.

● G.R. N'NAMDI GALLERY

Paintings by Peter Pinchbeck are on display through Dec. 1. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 161 Townsend, Birmingham.

● LIVONIA CITY HALL

Fall art show of VAAL Visual Arts Association continues through Nov. 16. Marjorie Chelsthorp is the juror. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Five Mile and Farmington roads, Livonia.

● PRINT GALLERY

Original antique posters by artists such as Cappelletti, Villenot and Collin are on display through December. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, until 9 p.m. Thursday, 29203 Northwestern, Southfield.

● ROCHESTER HILLS CITY HALL

Pastels by Renate Wechsler are on display through December. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive (off Aven), Rochester Hills.

● O.K. HARRIS

Paintings by James Del Grosso and Vladimir German, New York artists, are on display through Nov. 24. Del Grosso's still lifes in oil incorporate classic and non-traditional subjects, and German's landscapes in oil make reference to Mondrian and Turner. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 410 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● HABATAT GALLERIES

Two-person exhibition features works by David Huechhausen and Will Papperheimer. The Scale Detail Exhibition features small pieces by 50 artists who usually work in large scale. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 32255 Northwestern, Farmington Hills.

● TROY ART GALLERY

"The Beautiful World of Japanese Prints" (18th-20th century) continues through November. These are museum quality prints by Hiroshige, Kuniyoshi, Kuniada, Yoshitomo and many others. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 755 W. Big Beaver, Suite 131, Troy.

● COUNTY GALLERIA

Juried exhibition and sale by members of the Needlework & Textile Guild of Michigan will be on display to Dec. 13. Hours are 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

● GALLERY 22

Group show with works by Don Hatfield, David Schmeurer and Jim Osthoff continues through the month. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, until 9 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, 22 E. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills.

● CREATIVE ARTS CENTER

"The Day of the Dead: A Celebration" is the theme for the exhibit, which continues to Nov. 23. Eight contemporary artists will have individual installations or environments on this theme. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, until 2 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 47 Williams, Pontiac.

● PARK WEST GALLERY

"A World of Color," 22 paintings and 29 photographs by Marcel Mouly's 55-year career, are on display through November. He is one of France's most celebrated artists and has had more than 50 one-man shows around the world. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, until 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 29469 Northwestern, Southfield.

● CLAUDIA BROWNLEE

Group shows mark the change of location from the Michigan Design Center to downtown Birmingham for this gallery, which carries very contemporary art both functional and decorative, 574 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● DOS MANOS

"The Days of the Dead, A Mexican Tradition" includes a variety of crafts relating to this holiday celebration. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, until 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 210 West Sixth, Royal Oak.

● CENTER GALLERIES

Exhibition of work by the crafts department faculty continues through Nov. 21. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, until 4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, 15 E. Kirby, Detroit.

● T'MARRA GALLERY

Sculpture by Russell Thayer and paintings by Richard Brode continue through November. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, Saturday, until 9 p.m. Friday, 111 N. First St., Ann Arbor.

● SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES GALLERY

"Cultural Exchanges," with paintings by Virginia Maksymowicz and photography by Blaise Tobla, continues through Dec. 26, 45 E. Adams, E. Adams at Grand Circus Park, Detroit.

● GALVEZ GALLERY

"The House of the Fox" by Gloria A. Halcomb-Ivan Kendt continues through Nov. 27, 3356 Bagley, Detroit.

● D&M STUDIO

Features many local artists. Large floral watercolors, oil paintings, pen and ink drawings. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 710 Mill, Plymouth.

● RADISSON ON THE LAKE

Water media invitational includes works by 38 students of Igor Beghin. This is the Radisson EMU Corporate Education Center, 1275 Huron, Ypsilanti. Artwork is for sale, continues through Dec. 28.

● PIERCE STREET GALLERY

"New Landscapes" by Lynn Gessaman are on display through Nov. 24. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 217 Pierce, Birmingham.

● U-M MUSEUM OF ART

Sculpture and drawings by the outstanding Armenian-American artist Reuben Nalikian (1897-1988) continues on display to Nov. 23. The collection is on loan from Dr. and Mrs. Garabed Bellian of Troy. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, until 5 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, 525 S. State and S. University, Ann Arbor.

'Good Cheer' will benefit less-fortunate

In conjunction with "Operation Good Cheer" through Dec. 7, Ford Motor Credit Co. and the Spirit of Detroit Chorus will host a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Ford Motor Co. World Headquarters Building Auditorium.

On the program will be the Ford Motor Co. Chorus, the Renaissance Chorus of Wayne Chapter, SPEROSQ; the Myron Wahl Trio; and the Spirit of Detroit Chapter of Harmony International.

Under "Operation Good Cheer," children referred by the courts to Child and Family Services of Michigan can be recipients of holiday gifts and financial support for special needs. Many of these victims of neglect and abuse are not eligible for other gift-giving programs and are living in foster homes, institutions or adult-supervised young adult homes.

Spirit of Detroit Chapter has been involved in "Operation Good Cheer" since 1988, providing Christmas gifts, financial support, entertainment and co-sponsorship of this year's fund-raiser event.

Under auspices of Ford Motor Credit Co. with the cooperation of the Ford Communication Network and Cablevision of Dearborn/Wayne, Spirit of Detroit has coordinated a program of music for everyone with three award-winning choruses and featuring the sound of Appeals Court Judge Myron Wahl's Jazz Trio.

Tickets are free, but due to limited seating, they must be ordered in advance. Donations will be accepted at the event or by mail until Jan. 15.

For more information, call Janet Dillon, co-chairman public relations, Spirit of Detroit Chorus, at 534-4468.

Ballet days set

A ballet workshop for intermediate/advanced level dancers of all ages will be held this week in Southfield.

The Center for Creative Studies-Institute of Music & Dance will host the workshop for four days: 6-8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 2-4:15 p.m. Saturday at the Evergreen Center, 13 Mile and Evergreen, Southfield.

Christina Kammutter is the instructor. For reservations, call 831-2670.