

Creative Living

Bob Sklar editor/953-2113



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Abstract creations

Artistry of cement, silk featured in benefit show

By Linda Ann Chomin
special writer

ANNETTE FISHER uses cement castings intermingled with silk to express her ideas about life, death and birth.

Work by Fisher is on exhibit at Route 10 Gallery in Farmington Hills through June 15.

On Saturday, June 1, a combination artist's reception and benefit for Common Ground, a crisis intervention center, begins at 8 p.m.

Ten percent of all gallery sales for the week beginning June 1 will be donated to the Oakland County-based, self-help center.

FISHER'S 45-PIECE show features cement wallhangings, sculpture, and blueprint drawings of her cement and silk work.

"Originally, I worked in photography that was surreal," Fisher said in an interview at the gallery.

"When my gallery closed (Mill Gallery in Milford), I was forced to come to terms with what I wanted to say."

Fisher always "dreamt of giving abstract art a try," she said. Now the opportunity has arisen to express herself abstractly in cement and silk.

"I USED cement because it's hard like life sometimes can be, but it can crumble and break. Gray meant life (to me) because gray is vague. Cement is gray."

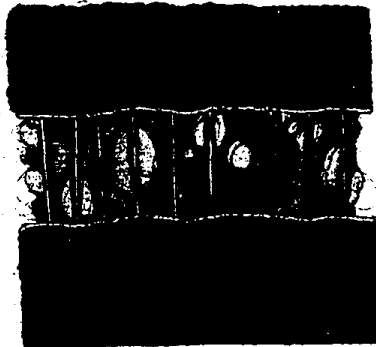
Every time Fisher uses a particular color, "it means something. Peach represents the female; purple the passion."

"Van Gogh used color as a way to express his feelings."

To construct her wallhanging sculpture, Fisher casts the cement portions of the work in a mold. She then places silk covers over abstract pillows between the pre-cast cement slabs.

Fisher's table sculptures are created on a round cement casting, horizontally placed on a lazy susan so that the entire piece turns.

FISHER'S "Pretty Lies" features a female figure wrapped in red silk and bound with gold thread.



"Adolescence" is a cement and silk wallhanging sculpture by Annette Fisher. The silk pillow with balloons represents childhood. The restrictive bars that hold the silk soft sculpture in place speak of the domineering parent in the child's life.

On the outer rim of the slab, Fisher vertically positions wooden poles or posts with smiling death masks all facing the central figure. The figure is being pulled from all sides by strings attached to the poles.

The idea is "when we're children, the adults generally tell how wonderful we are. When we grow up, we learn that life is not always as sweet as adults promised."

FISHER TEACHES part time at St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford Township, where she is artist-in-residence. She began teaching art in 1978 at Holy Redeemer Elementary school in Detroit.

Fisher earned a bachelor of art education degree at Eastern Michigan University. Earlier this year, her work was part of the 12th Michigan Biennial "Beyond Boundaries" at the Kresge Art Museum.

"I'm real pleased with this show," said Doree Schwartz, co-owner of Route 10 Gallery.

"It's very high quality. We like being known as an avant-garde

gallery. We try to be on the cutting edge, just on the other side of contemporary, the hard edge."

Fisher's work is priced from \$100 to \$500.

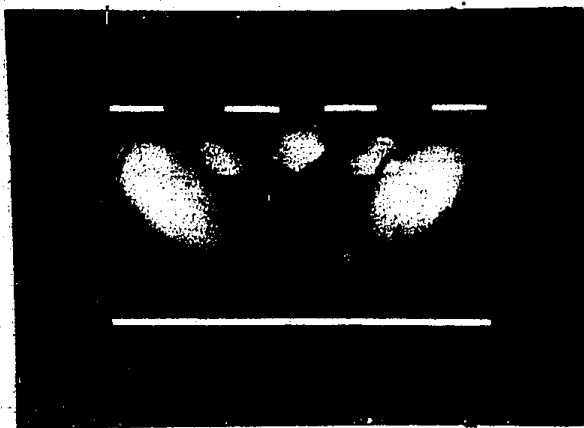
Route 10 Gallery exhibits paintings, works on paper, raku ware, sculpture, blown glass, jewelry, and handmade horse-like creatures with wings. Prices at the gallery range from \$20 to \$2,000.

COMMON GROUND is a crisis intervention center that has served the area since 1971.

The agency helps 20,000 people a year. The intervention approach is to help people to help themselves.

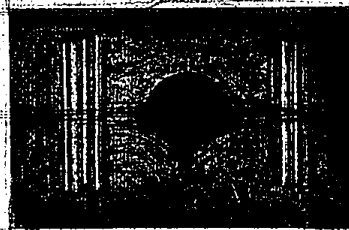
The Common Ground Crisis Unit is open 24 hours a day. It provides the community with crisis helpline assistance, a medical and legal clinic, a speakers bureau and prevention services — at no charge.

Route 10 Gallery is at 32430 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday. Call 932-4160.



Life is full of strings, says artist Annette Fisher. "On a String" is part of Fisher's life series. She said the idea behind this piece is that "children are puppets on a string."

Left: "Grasping for Straws" is a cement wallhanging by Annette Fisher. She uses cement to express her feelings about life because "cement is hard like life sometimes can be."



Tour to spotlight historic Music Hall

Preservation Wayne will host a boiler-to-roof tour of the historic Music Hall. The downtown theater presents performing arts programs and educational opportunities to suburbanites as well as Detroiters.

The tour will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 1. The fee is \$8 for members of Preservation Wayne and the Art Deco Society of Detroit and \$10 for non-members. Advance reservations are a must. Call 577-3559.

The tour will begin in the lobby of the Music Hall, on the southeast corner of Brush Street and Madison Avenue. Nearby parking is available. Refreshments will be served before viewing the theater.

Preservation Wayne was formed 15 years ago as a result of the threatened demolition of the David MacKenzie House on the Wayne State University campus.

This theater tour is just one of a series of programs and tours the group has planned for 1991.

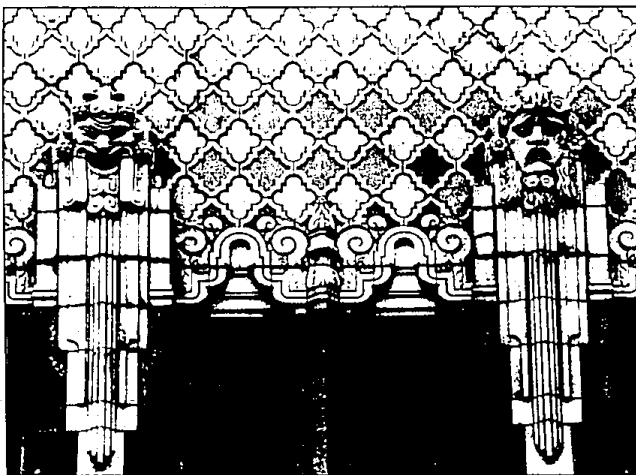
Those on the tour will get a behind-the-scenes look at Music Hall, including the boiler and dressing rooms, offices, balconies, main auditorium and back stage.

A 20-minute slide show will be featured on stage. Weather permitting, there will be a rooftop picnic for a nominal charge after the tour.

THE 62-YEAR-OLD Music Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Built by Matilda Dodge Wilson at a price of \$3 million, the theater's sound technology was patterned after the newly built motion picture studios.

Ongoing renovation includes basic maintenance or replacement of components of the building's heating system, restoration of ornate decorations, structural improvements and cleaning.



Terra cotta masks of Comedy and Tragedy are sculpted on the front of Music Hall.

When the theater opened in 1928, its marquee covered the entire front and part of the sides of the building.

Over the years, the marquee was removed and a movie theater-type sign was installed. A new marquee similar to the original, will be added to the building.

Renovation is targeted to be completed by 1993.

THE Wilson Theatre (as Music Hall Center was originally named) was built during an era of growth and cultural development in downtown Detroit.

This period was marked by other grand building projects and ornate movie palaces, but the Wilson occupied a niche as one of the city's only legitimate theaters.

Fashioned after the great legiti-

mate theaters of Europe, it was crafted by the same architects and artisans who built Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills.

Saved from demolition in 1973 with an acquisition grant from the Kresge Foundation and Detroit Renaissance, Music Hall's initial restoration phase played an important role in the revitalization of downtown Detroit.

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