

Creative Living

Mary Klemic editor/644-1100

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



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Superstar tenor



Luciano Pavarotti (left) and David DiChiera speak at a press conference before the internationally known tenor's last local visit in 1988. Pavarotti will make his second appearance at Joe Louis Arena Sunday by special arrangement with the Michigan Opera Theatre. DiChiera, MOT general director, said the famous tenor's performances attract even fans who normally do not attend opera.

DiChiera, a longtime Birmingham resident.

Both have excelled in their careers by using their talents and personal charisma. And like Pavarotti, DiChiera's success has not been overnight.

DiChiera, who came to teach music at Oakland University in Rochester Hills in 1962, can remember a time when staging a major production was only a dream. Although the Detroit area boasted a great symphony, the lack of an opera company was something

of a shock.

"I was fairly surprised to find that Detroit had no opera company and no music hall," DiChiera said.

NOW IN its 21st year, the Michigan Opera Theatre is among the top companies in the country for its size, staging six productions a year, more than longer-established companies in Philadelphia, Seattle, Miami and Cincinnati.

With plans to move into a permanent hall, the historic Grand Circus Theatre undergoing restoration in downtown Detroit, in fall 1994, MOT will be able to stage even larger productions.

After graduating from UCLA, DiChiera, a Los Angeles native, studied opera history in Italy before embarking on a varied music career that includes coaching, conducting,

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Artist drawn to many themes

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

The historic, the modern, realism, abstract, large, small — award-winning artist Constance Powell's work runs several gamuts.

"I like everything," said Powell, whose work will be among those on display at the Sholem Aleichem Institute's 28th annual art show and sale Friday-Sunday.

Powell will exhibit mixed media and pen-and-ink drawings.

"I really like varying what I do. I guess I'm always going to be getting into new things."

Such new things include taking a printmaking workshop at Center for Creative Studies. Powell is also working with collagraphs.

Powell is known for works in both abstract and realism. She emphasizes design, color and texture in the former, and gives careful attention to detail and perspective in the latter.

Powell has drawn, in pen and ink, 200 scenes of Michigan, including Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, Wing Lake School in Birmingham and historic courthouses in southeast Michigan.

"Usually, it has to have some kind of historical significance," she said of her choice of subjects.

ORIGINALLY FROM Rhode Island, Powell has lived in Michigan most of her life, including in Farmington Hills and Walled Lake. She now works out of her Beverly Hills home.

She first took part in the Sholem Aleichem show in the early 1970s and has returned many times since. The show is significant for her.

"It was one of the first shows I did when exhibiting my work."

More than 125 established and new artists, representing many media, will be featured at the art show and sale.

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On stage Local opera booster hosting Pavarotti

By William Coutant
staff writer

WHEN SUPERSTAR Luciano Pavarotti performs at Joe Louis Arena Sunday, it will have a lot to do with the vision and determination of Michigan Opera Theatre founder David DiChiera.

And there are parallels between the famous tenor from Modena, Italy, and



Anita M. Flory has entitled her Our Town artwork "Warrior." The sixth annual show and sale opens Wednesday at The Community House.

Our Town displays art of state

It's an art-of-the-state exhibition. The sixth annual Our Town Art Exhibition and Sale is being presented at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham. The juried show features 343 pieces of art in a variety of media by 219 artists from around Michigan.

Our Town will open Wednesday, Oct. 16, with a private preview. It will be open to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 17-20. Admission is free.

JUROR WILLIAM Bostick, a professional artist and instructor, called

Our Town "one of the major showings of the artists of our state." Bostick was the administrator and secretary of the Detroit Institute of Arts for 30 years.

Five days of programs, speakers and awards are planned. Featured is a showing of middle and high school student art; a talk at the Professional Women's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 17 by Our Town juror Bostick; a speech by portrait artist Patricia Hill Burnett at a noon luncheon Oct. 17; Art and Jazz II 6-9 p.m. Oct. 18, with music, art, hors

Reservations or tickets are required for the breakfast, luncheon, jazz and children's workshop. Call The Community House, 644-5832.

d'oeuvres, cash bar and a drawing; a children's workshop 10-11 a.m. Oct. 19; and an awards ceremony 4:30

p.m. Oct. 20, which will conclude the exhibition.

RESERVATIONS OR tickets are required for the breakfast, luncheon, jazz and children's workshop. Call The Community House, 644-5832.

Also, the Bates Street Garden Cafe will be open 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day except Sunday, when it will close at 4 p.m.

This year's show features more artists and fewer pieces per artist; 900 slides of works were submitted.



Audrey Dimarco's "Faces in Time" is among the featured exhibits in Our Town.



Dorothy B. Foley's colorful "Pears, Pitcher and Cookie Jar" is one of the works in the Our Town exhibition.

Artheat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Tom Nicely, owner of Leaves Of Grass Rare Books in Ann Arbor, will speak on collecting rare books at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at Cranbrook House, off Lane Pine Road across from Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Presented by the Cranbrook

Writers' Guild. Nicely will discuss what a rare book is, why some books are worth more than others, what a book search is and how to get started collecting. You may bring a few books for appraisal.

Admission is \$5, free for members.

Myth, structuring and social values are explored in a series of large scale paintings by local artist Robert Schefman through Saturday at the Lemberg Gallery, 538 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

Art Beat

Based on Homer's "Iliad," Schefman's intricate work features a non-traditional watercolor technique designed to highlight the medium's luminosity.

Schefman is a graduate of Detroit Country Day School. He received his bachelor of fine arts degree from Michigan State University and his master's degree from the University of Iowa. In

1990, he completed a painted screen for Tres Vite, a restaurant owned by Jimmy Schmidt and Mike Illich in the Fox Theatre building.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 642-6623.

Jeff Bloomer, Jeff Covico, Tom Humes and Glynn Sweeney have been chosen to exhibit at Detroit Focus, 743 Beaubien in Detroit, this year. They were selected from more than 60 entries in Detroit Focus' Studio Visit Program, now in its sixth year.

The exhibit, "Flanders Revisited," will run Oct. 11 to Nov. 9. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Call 982-9025. An opening reception, at which time a representative from the Arts Foundation of Michigan will award an honorarium to each exhibiting artist, will take place 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday. The public may attend.

Charles W. Warren Jewelers will present a special, extended display and sale of treasures from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de

Atocha at its Somerset Mall store to Saturday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

The Artists' Gallery, on Northwestern Highway between 12 and 13 Mile in Applegate Square, in Southfield, will present "Celebration," a one-year anniversary gala featuring works by Minnie Berman in watermedia and Elaine Redmond in photography. Opening reception is 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17. Call 353-4707.