

Artist's drawings bring pastels to life

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

When it comes to art, Jill Farber takes it personally.

"In essence, when it comes down to it it's self-motivation, it's self-inspiration," said the artist, a West Bloomfield resident.

This self-motivation sparked Farber's efforts in a new medium.

Farber had been painting for many years ("in fact, my whole life") when last year she decided to work in pastel for the first time.

"This past year I just felt driven to experience drawing again."

Now an exhibit of her pastel drawings is at The Print Gallery, 29203 Northwestern Highway in Southfield, through Dec. 1.

"THE PASTEL really allows me the freedom to express myself."

The drive and energy Farber felt to work in pastel comes through in her drawings. Reminders of Pollock, Van Gogh, Gauguin and Matisse are seen in the vibrant colors and bold lines.

"I was impressed with the vibrancy and the movement in her work," gallery owner Diane Shipley said. "I thought it was really different. They

had a nice energy to them."

Some works evoke a serene, tranquil, soft feeling. Others generate a hot tropical ambience.

"IMAGINATION IS the key," Farber said.

"I don't set any limits on myself or any boundaries."

Painting to me is the freedom of self-expression, communication, being able to break rules. I don't like to classify myself or my work at all."

Farber doesn't plan a drawing, but rather works spontaneously, through stream of consciousness, she said.

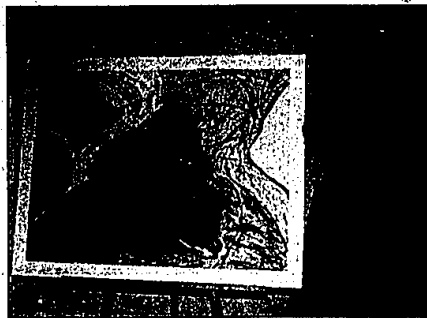
"Art is an evolutionary process... a very personal experience."

She describes some works as "biomorphic organic forms of the mindscape." Her favorite colors are fuchsia and magenta ("fiery and feisty").

FARBER WAS born in Detroit. She started her art education at the age of 4, studying with Glen Michaels at Cranbrook.

She continued at Cranbrook and graduated from the Center for Creative Studies with a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting.

Farber gets involved with her art through the process itself — "having



Jill Farber of West Bloomfield tried her hand at pastels, and bold, vibrant works were the result. The drawings are now on display at The Print Gallery in Southfield.

a hand on the paper, getting emotionally and motionally involved in the work."

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, to 9 p.m. Thursday. Call 556-5454.

DeRoy winners

Prize winners in the 10th annual Helen DeRoy Art Competition have been announced. Gwen Tomkow (left) of Farmington Hills received the first-place purchase award (\$1,200) for her watercolor "Tulip Fantasy." Donna Hamilton of Wixom received a purchase award (\$225) for her untitled ceramic works and Diane Plaskon Koory of Troy received the second-place purchase prize (\$425) for her mixed-media painting, "Recalling Lace Curtains."

Holiday party Sunday to benefit ballet company

A holiday party in the spirit of "The Nutcracker" ballet 2 p.m. Sunday will benefit the Michigan Classic Ballet, a non-profit dance company based in West Bloomfield.

The party will take place in The Community House, 380 S. Bates in

Birmingham. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12.

Call 661-2430 for information, or write the Michigan Classic Ballet Company, artistic director Mary C. Geiger, 5526 Drake Road, West

Bloomfield 48322.

The event will feature costumed dancers from "The Nutcracker" ballet, as performed by the Michigan Classic Ballet, along with storytelling, face-painting, holiday caroling, light refreshments and a raffle

drawing.

In 1991-92, the ballet company's programs will include performing "The Nutcracker" in December, performing "Cinderella" in May and participating in the Mid States Regional Ballet Festival in May.

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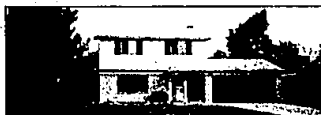
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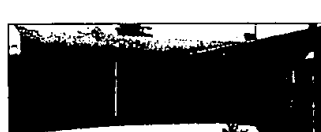
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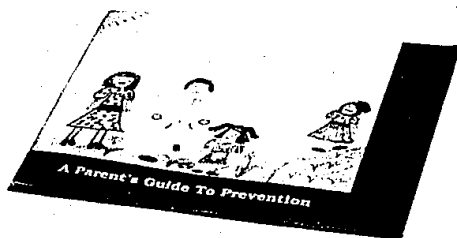
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