

New shop stocks DIA's eclectic gift fare

By Cathleen Collins Lee
special writer

THE SIGN over the door says Detroit Institute of Arts, but it's a good 30 miles from downtown Detroit and considerably smaller. It's the new DIA museum shop at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, which brings the museum's eclectic assortment of interesting gifts a little closer to the suburban doorstep.

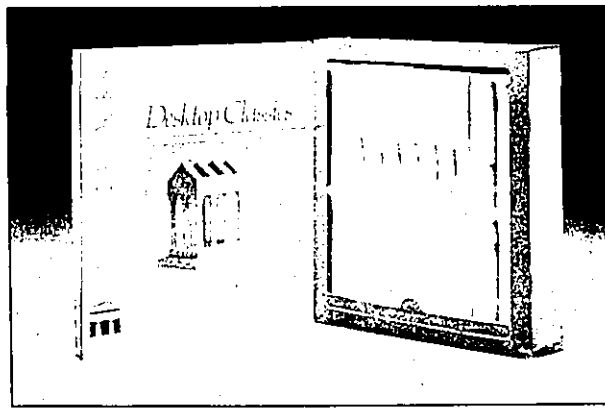
The beautifully appointed store, which opened in September, offers everything from Tiffany window hangings to Pewabic pottery to the DIA's elegant black and gold Egyptian-inspired coffee mugs. If you want to spend \$2, or if you want to spend \$200, you'll find lots to choose from here.

The store itself was designed by Jon Greenberg Associates of Berkley to echo the DIA as much as possible. Columns running through the store replicate those designed in 1927 by architect Paul Cret for the museum's Woodward Avenue entrance. And a portion of the museum's famed Diego Rivera mural, which shows massive figures pulling minerals from the earth, adds rich color and detail to an upper wall.

The store also features warm wood walls and counters and an expansive glass front. Merchandise is attractively displayed so you know just what's there: statues on pedestals, notecards and children's toys on narrow shelves, and museum reproduction jewelry on beautiful tapestry pillows.

KATHRYN DARBY, assistant marketing director in charge of the shops, believes the shop has something for everyone.

"If you like traditional, you'll find it," she said. "If you like contemporary, you'll find it. We've got a little bit of



Archiblocks Greek Desktop Classics (\$59) is a set of 58 hardrock maple blocks with the shapes and proportions of Greek columns, pediments and lintels. Children and adults can use them to create buildings using the principles of Greek architecture.

everything. And we have something to interest people of all ages."

Darby says the Twelve Oaks store will carry the same merchandise as the museum shop itself, which she renovated five years ago. Both stores sell reproductions of objects belonging to the DIA and other major museums.

You'll find more items from the DIA collection itself than ever before, thanks to an increased emphasis on developing reproductions.

New additions, introduced by product development manager Josephine Shea, include a pre-Columbian ceramic bowl (\$49), silk scarves with a decorative motif from a Sevres vase (\$59), and Celtic bracelets

(\$26 for pewter, \$36 for gold-plated).

Shea has also made good use of Egyptian designs on a papyrus (the papyrus of Nes-min) that is too fragile to be displayed in the museum itself. The striking design adorns black and gold trinket boxes (\$3.95), message cubes (\$8.95) and coffee mugs (\$8.95).

For \$12, you can also buy a small stuffed mummy.

OTHER DIA favorites reproduced for the shop include Rodin's *The Thinker* (in a small statue for \$95), Bruegel's *The Wedding Dance* and Bouguereau's *The Nut Gatherers* (both available in notecards and a framed print).

The store has a nice selection of small- and medium-sized statues, including *The School Girl* by Edgar Degas (\$112), *Akua'ba*, a fertility doll (\$81), and the *Young Mother* (\$149) by Bessie Potter Vonnoh.

There are several attractive sets of pottery as well, including black soapstone pieces from Kenya with dramatic orange and white geometric patterns. The black and white pieces include some attractive twisted candlesticks (\$20 a piece) and a small canister made in the shape of a coiled snake (\$72).

The shop also carries a series of stained glass pieces, designed by Tiffany, La Farge and Frank Lloyd Wright, which can be hung in a window or propped up in a plastic stand. They range in price from \$32 for a small round angel to \$200.

You can't go to the museum and walk out with your favorite Monet, but you can buy a framed and matted print (\$39.95) of many of the museum's

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The small figure sculpture (\$59) is part of the DIA museum's famed Colombian collection, which replicates designs and artifacts created by the indigenous cultures of Colombia from 1,000 to 1,500 years ago. The piece is carved in brass and plated in 24-karat gold.



Among the statues at the DIA museum are statues in the region of 1,000 years old, by Edgar Degas, which are in the museum's collection. The statue is a contemporary reproduction of a Sevres vase and costs \$112.