You don't study ceramics as art under Charlie Blosser, professor of ceramics technology at the Royal Oak Campus of Oakland Community College.

You study ceramics as pottery, a vocational pursuit that may some day help you make a living.

That distinction is important, and the service of the

men see clay as a medium for function."

To illustrate the distinction, Blosser drew this analogy, Both the arilst and the craftsman may produce an aesthetically pleasing teaport. But the craftsman's teapor holds tea.

Blosser talked about the distinction last week as he and his students prepared for the 16th Annual Potters Market this weekend in Madison Heights.

THE MARKET attracted 8,000 people last year. Statistically, they bought a little more than two items each.
"I expect it to be bigger this year," said Blosser, who designed and helped implement the OCC ceramics program. He included the potters market as part of his curriculum to develop cardismer who can ulum to develop craftsmen who can also turn a profit.

That's part of the inclusive nature of the OCC program, said George Cartsonis, the school's spokesman. "A fot of schools teach ecramics. We teach ceramics as a vocation . . . and that includes marketing your work."

But the Potters Market is more But the Potters Market is more than a chance to hawk your wares, said Linda Savell of Birmingham, one of about 140 OCC students, or former students, who plan to display a variety of items including stone-ware, coffee mugs and holiday orna-ments.

ments.
"It's a chance to develop the network needed to be a successful potter," explained Savell, who has been interested in pottery for about 25 years and plans to display "at least 200 items," in the show.

Another typical student, Julie

Gaynett of Farmington Hills, said say plans to have about 800 items in the display, including jewelry and

CAROLE BERHORST of Bloom-field Hills said Blosser's approach— and the potters market—are funda-mental for aspiring potters who plan to be something other than ama-

to be sometime, once the treurs.

Berhorst, who has a master's degree from Wayne State University in social work, said she got interested in pottery about 12 years ago. Prompted by curiosity, she took an

IN RECOGNITION of bow well Berhorst has developed her contacts and business, she shared OCC's and business, she shared OCC's exporter of the Year' bonors, along with Lynn Gray a Birmingham resident who subsequently moved to Texas.

"We were named Potters of the Year because of the aggressive way we made a business out of our hobby," said Berhorst. "And I attribute it to the methods and techniques instilled by Charlie Blosser."

While Berhorst respects Blosser's skills as a potter and teacher, she doesn't necessarily agree that crafts-

'Now, he (husband Jerry) is very understanding and supportive. But at first, he didn't understand how committed I was to making this a business.

--- Carole Berhorst

adult education course in ceramics and eventually got active in the Bir-mingham Bloomfield Art Associa-tion.

and eventually got active in the Birmingham Biomriteld Art Association.

"By then I was hooked," said
Berhorst, who inevitably carolled in
the OCC program under Biosser.
Now, as estimated Biosser.
Now, be Given William and the biome studio.

It started out as a hobby, she said.
But it quickly "look over my garage," much to
the dismay of her husband, an engineer at Chrysler.
"Now, be (Jerry) is very understanding and supportive," she said.
"But at first, he didn't understand
how committed I was to making this
a business."

He's a very orderly and organized
person, Berhorst said of her husband.
Back when she was starting out, he
didn't seem to understand that a tangible business could evolve from the
scattered clutter of her studio.

The started clutter of her studio.

The started clutter of the studio.

Berhorst declined to specify how
much she makes in her pottery busicess. In general, however, she says
potters can make between \$20,000
and \$100,000 annually, "depending
on how well they develop their business and the contacts they make."

manship excludes artistry. "Our teapot holding tea doesn't mean it can't be a work of art.
"But I guess that's a matter of necessarium."

"But I guess that's a matter of perspective."

"But I guess that's a matter of perspective."

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R.
The hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday;
and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday.



Bernadine Crawford, left, of Southfield displays some of the potter's she will show all the Potter's Market. Below-OCC prof Charles Blosses and student Linda Savell of-Birmingham discuss the up-coming show.





Wrap it up!

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