

## Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE

Mary Klemic editor/644-1100



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## Art Beat

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

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

• Newsworthy display  
An exhibit, "Photography: A Mirror of Contemporary Society," will open Wednesday, May 6, at the County Galleria, in the Executive Office Building at 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

The display, continuing through June 11, will feature more than 60 photographs and their stories on the two floors of the County Galleria. The Galleria is open during business hours Monday-Friday. Call 858-0415 for more information.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will host a reception 6-8 p.m. Wednesday for the public to meet the photojournalists from all newspapers with Oakland County readership.

• Bloomin' arts benefit  
Cranbrook Hospice Care, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing home support for terminally ill patients and their families, is sponsoring the second annual Bloomin' Arts benefit 7-9 p.m. Friday, May 1, at the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club in Bloomfield Hills.

Bloomin' Arts will feature a collection of work by artists at the General Motors design staff. It includes a variety of paintings, sculpture and pottery. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a cash bar and door prizes will also be featured.

Reservations are available through Cranbrook Hospice Care at 643-8855. Reservations are \$35 in advance. Tickets are \$40 at the door.

All proceeds will benefit Cranbrook Hospice Care, a fully licensed network of professionals and volunteers who provide care, services and support for terminally ill patients.

• Award winner  
Dr. Zalman (Toby) Konikow of Bloomfield Hills will receive the Michigan Patron Award from the Art Foundation of Michigan on Tuesday, May 5, at the Gem Theatre in Detroit.

The 17th annual awards, the oldest arts award program in the state, will honor three Michigan artists and two patrons of the arts. The AFM is a 26-year-old funding organization that supports individual artists creating new works in Michigan.

Tickets for the event are \$50 and \$100 and include the show "Forbidden Broadway." To order tickets or for more information about AFM programs, call the AFM at 564-2244 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• Watercolor honor  
Frances Waring of Troy is one of eight Michigan artists included in the 125th annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society, on display now through May 3 at the galleries of the Salmagundi Club in New York City.

Featuring more than 120 works in aqua media on paper by artists from throughout the United States and Canada, the exhibition was juried from about 1,700 entries. It also includes works by artists from Hong Kong and Singapore.

Waring was also honored with election to full membership in the society. Her painting, "Gros Ventre," was selected for the Mario Cooper Award.

• On the air  
Mary Falvey Fuller, president of Falvey Motors of Troy, will be the next guest host on the WQRS-FM program "Guess Who's Playing the Classics?," 9-10 p.m. Thursday, April 30.

Music has been a lifelong avocation of Fuller. She is active with the San Francisco Performances, a non-profit organization emphasizing classical music and dance.

In addition to her duties at Falvey Motors, Fuller has developed her practice as an independent management consultant, based in San Francisco, specializing in business and financial strategy, strategic planning and management.

## Exhibit shows history

By Mary Klemic  
staff writer

When Dubi Arle was working on "The Mission — Under the Wing of God and the Shadow of Amalek," in a way he was making as well as recording history.

The large (7-by-38 1/2-foot) oil on canvas painting was meant to be an encompassing history of the Jewish people. It took the artist more than two decades of work, of which seven years were spent painting and the rest in research.

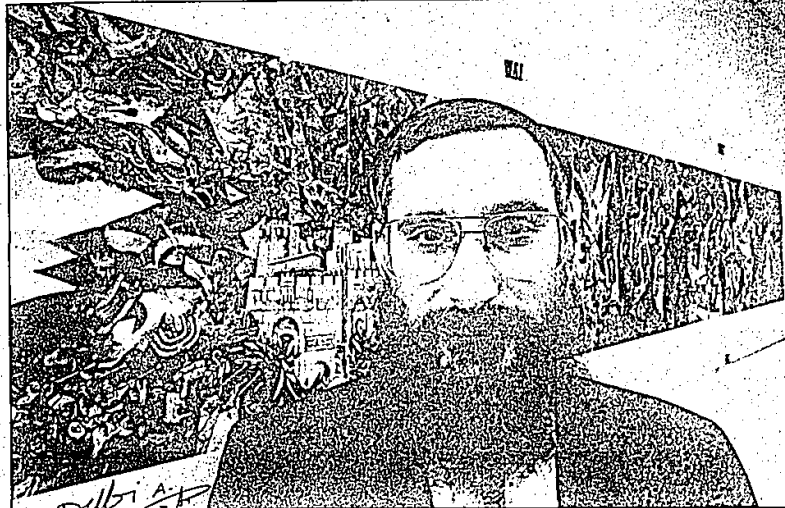
"The Mission" will have its public premiere at a special reception Thursday, May 7, at the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery in the Jewish Community Center, 6600 Maple at Drake in West Bloomfield. It will be the first time the work, now at the artist's Ontario residence, will be seen in its entirety.

The monumental painting will be shown at the museum/gallery until June 11, after which it will visit Miami and Chicago, among other cities.

"IT'S NOT only a piece of art," said Abe Leaf, founder of the Art Judaica Educational Foundation, a non-profit Oak Park organization that is promoting "The Mission" and has published prints of the work. "It's an educational piece, something that I think is uplifting and inspiring."

The painting carries a powerful, universal message and was made as an educational tool, Leaf said.

Another major exhibition exploring Jewish history, "A Day in the



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Abe Leaf, founder of the Art Judaica Educational Foundation, stands in front of a model of "The Mission," a monumental painting about Jewish history that will make its premiere in West Bloomfield next week. The work, measuring 7 by 38 1/2 feet, can have meaning for all religions, Leaf says.

Warsaw Ghetto: A Birthday Trip in Hell," will be shown with "The Mission." (See related story.)

"I think that it's a very significant work that we're very excited about having the world premiere in Detroit, especially because we're combining it with another major exhibition," said Sharon Zimmerman, director of the museum/gallery. "It will produce quite an overwhelming effect, help put (both) into perspective."

"THE MISSION" is made up of seven panels and divided into three major sections: "Birth of a Nation," "The Struggle of Israel" and "From Destruction to Redemption." The subjects move in waves from right to left, in colors that burst on the canvas like fire or glow warmly.

Shadows and turmoil are present, but so are brightness and hope.

Among the dramatic images and symbols are Abraham, Moses, Joshua, the exodus from Egypt and the Ten Commandments. Six tombstones represent the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

A soldier holding the flag of Israel and a white-bearded man holding a Torah are across from each other,

depicting a physical and spiritual struggle. Flames from an atomic bomb in the last panel warn what will happen if people don't learn from history.

"I think it's something all religions will rally around," Leaf said.

"The original is so powerful. There is a saying in the Torah,

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## Dyed cloth takes Orient expression

By Mary Klemic  
staff writer

Like those of a changing sky, the colors of Joanne Bellet's art merge subtly into one another.

The West Bloomfield resident works in shibori, the Japanese art of shaping, binding and then dyeing cloth. She fashions soft, shimmering silk into a variety of items, including scarves, vests, ties, skirts, pillowcases and hanging wall pieces.

Shibori may be thought of as the

"original tie-dye," but it's really more than that, Bellet said. Detailed, painstaking work is involved, including wrapping the material around a pole and tying it with thread, often so strenuous a task that the artist's elbow becomes sore.

Designs may feature stripes, geometric shapes or intricate patterns. The design is the result of many factors, such as the way the material is put on the pole before it is secured — folded, pleated, twisted, stitched or crumpled, for example — and the

amount of tension used to tie and compress the cloth. And the material may be dyed repeatedly, shaped a different way each time.

"It's fun because you never know what you're going to get until you take it off the pole," said Bellet, a school psychologist for Troy Public Schools.

"You have to be willing to play a little. That's what makes it fun."

BELLET is among the 63 artists and craftspeople from around Michi-

gan and the Midwest who will display and sell their work at the 24th Westcoast Artist Market, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Westcoast Clubhouse in West Bloomfield.

The clubhouse is on the bluffs of Middle Straits Lake, off Commerce Road, east of Union Lake Road and west of Orchard Lake Road. Admission is free. For more information, call 558-2152.

The participating artists from this area include Carole Berhorst (pottery) of Bloomfield Hills; Alice Frank (metal); Cindy Fields McMahon (paper); Kathy Phillips (watercolor) and Nicholas Pollard (wood) of West Bloomfield; Allen and Fay Herman (jewelry) of Southfield; Constance Powell (mixed media) of Birmingham; Ted Strielwsky (jewelry) and Claudia Tann (jewelry) of Farmington Hills; Margaret Tuttle (watercolor) of Troy; Frank Yanke (gold) of Franklin; David Sheldon (pottery) of Huntington Woods; Douglas Spalding (pottery) of Royal Oak; and Denise Stadler (pottery) of Waterford.

"We jury our show in the early part of the year. You have to be a good quality (artist)," said Joy Matousch, who is co-chairing the market with Jo Fenstermaker and who has a coat designed by Bellet.

"We have a tremendous variety... Something for everybody in every price range. Everything is original."

"(Bellet) has very beautiful silk clothing. She's done quite a few different things to major pieces of clothing."

"Whenever I wear it (the coat) I

feel very special because it's one of a kind."

THE JAPANESE used forms of shibori prior to the sixth century. Experimentation and innovation with the art in Japan and the West are taking place today. In Japan, shibori helps teach children discipline and develop their motor skills, Bellet said.

For some items, Bellet's material is so tightly compressed, about two yards of it can fit in a 12-inch space and it feels like cardboard. Her process can include blow drying the material with a fan, steaming it and pouring water and vinegar over it.

Sometimes she combines an antique kimono with her silk to create a reversible outfit. These types of items may require special care. But for many other pieces, she encourages her customer to crumple it into a ball when putting it in the closet.

"You get some really interesting things," Bellet said.

BELLET was introduced to shibori at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. She took a year off to work on her technique and studied at a craft college in Arrowmont, Tenn.

Bellet has been painting silk for six years.

"I've always been involved with art."

She spent a year working on watercolor.

"I had no idea what a hard medium it is. I have tremendous respect for watercolor painters. I could do things on fabric that I couldn't do on paper."



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Joanne Bellet of West Bloomfield knows the ropes — and the threads — of shibori, the Japanese art of tying and dyeing fabric. She will be one of the artists featured at the 24th Westcoast Artist Market this Saturday.

## First Thursday gallery walk blossoms with ideas

IT LOOKS as though a new tradition has taken root in Birmingham.

First Thursday was an idea that sprouted last December, the kickoff event for a new organization, the North Woodward Galleries.

The galleries, north of Maple in Birmingham, plan to have simultaneous openings, lectures and special events during extended hours the first Thursday of the month to accommodate the busy work schedules of art connoisseurs and patrons. In December, each gallery hosted a booth for a non-profit organization.

FIFTEEN GALLERIES along Woodward, and the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, are participating in First Thursday next month. And three galleries on Townsend —

the Hill Gallery, the G.R. N'Namdi Gallery and the Robert Kidd Gallery — plan on having gala openings that day as well.

Each of the Woodward galleries will open a new art exhibition 6-8:30 p.m. May 7. The Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, 500 Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills, will have longer hours that day — noon to 9:30 p.m. — and serve coffee 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Festivities will be in bloom along Woodward. Gratz will provide a cappuccino cart. A steel drum band, Tropical Connection, will perform between 6 and 8:30 p.m. Balloons on the street will help visitors find the galleries.

The locations of the galleries range from the Janis Wetnam Gallery at 132 N. Woodward to Insitu



Mary Klemic

Architectura and the Wells Gallery, both at 800 N. Woodward.

The other galleries are Art Space, Sandra Collins, the Duke Gallery, the Feigensohn/Preston Gallery, the Halstead Gallery, O.K. Harris Works of Art, Donna Jacobs Gallery Ltd., K.C. Larson Galleries, the Lemberg Gallery, the Elizabeth Stone Gallery, the Xochipilli Gallery and the Yaw Gallery.

FIRST THURSDAY visitors can reap unexpected benefits. The atmosphere is a little more comfortable. On a regular day it can be a little hectic if you try to squeeze in a stop at a gallery between the time you leave work and the time the gallery closes.

"It's been really good. It's worked out very well. We find it's been wonderful," said Anne Marie Karmazin, O.K. Harris Works of Art associate director. "Clients have been coming in with their spouses. They can still get home to watch the 9 o'clock movie."

If you feel more comfortable, you're more likely to take advantage of the chance to talk with the dealers. It's a great way to introduce yourself to art, or to expand the art

education offered by such institutions as Cranbrook, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield.

"People can learn a lot if they get to know the dealers. We encourage people to talk to us. Each dealer is very knowledgeable. We want people to feel good coming in here."

FUTURE First Thursdays are eagerly anticipated. A veritable garden of artily delights could blossom in October, the opening of the art season, as all 15 Woodward galleries will be involved. In December, non-profit organizations may be featured again.

"We want to make this a Birmingham tradition."