

Rock stars shine in photo show

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The beat goes on in an exhibit now showing at the Russell Klatt Gallery in Birmingham. "Legends of Rock and Roll," on display through June 21 at the gallery, 1467 S. Woodward, features intimate and never-before published photographs of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, Eric Clapton, Jerry Garcia, Bruce Springsteen and other rock stars. A percentage of profits from sales from the show will benefit the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society.

The photographers whose work is in the exhibit — Michael McCarty, Dean Hoffman, Henry Ditz, Richard E. Anton, Roger Marshall, Harrison Funk and Robert Knight — spent more than 30 years capturing personal and revealing images of the most celebrated figures in popular music.

"I have seen these pictures time and time again for months (getting the show ready)," said Russell Klatt, gallery owner and operator. "When I unpacked the thing it was still real exciting."

The display isn't the first time Klatt has been associated with rock musicians. He played keyboard and saxophone for the band Phantom, primed as Bob Seger's opening act until its song, "Calm Before the Storm," hit the charts.

The song sold more than 350,000 copies, and the band toured the country.

But at age 19, Klatt decided to sell his musical equipment and open a gallery.

"It's kind of neat. I sold all my equipment and took the money to start this business up. Here 18 1/2 years later I'm (back in) rock and roll again."

Some images in the exhibit are dramatic concert shots. Others catch the artists at quiet moments.

Eric Clapton is seen performing with Stevie Ray Vaughan, the night Vaughan was killed in a plane crash. One early photo of The Beatles standing around and talking in The Cavern, a bar in Liverpool, has an eerie, ironic touch.

At the time, the group was the opening act for the house band, The Dakotas. The name "Dakota" can be seen on a drum in the photo. "Dakota" is also the name of the apartment building at which John Lennon was murdered years later.

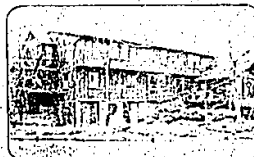
"It almost gives you chills . . . It's the hottest selling photo in the exhibit. That's just spectacular. It shows the innocent these guys had."

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 647-6655.



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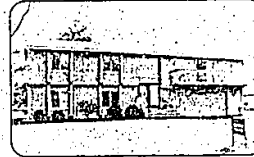
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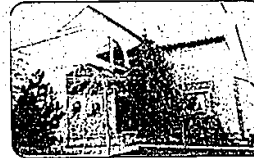
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Exhibit from page 1D

brook's permanent collections as well as the museum's day-to-day operations. He is a former curator of exhibitions at the Suggs Art Museum, and holds a degree in architecture from the University of Michigan.

Pieces in red, orange, blue and yellow floral patterns, the boldly colored textile is quilted in gold thread in an overall flower design.

"Take time to smell the flowers. That's a nice dictate for our society," Wittkopp said.

"There's a density and richness to the color and design. There's so much to look at that you keep coming back to explore its visual depth."

Variety of media

Merit Awards went to:

• "Chicken Itza," a wood sculpture by Hamtramck artist Eric Mesko. Wittkopp cited the sculpture for its visually abstract quality and use of materials. "It straddles the edge between found objects and ones that are specifically cut and chosen for a purpose."

• "Dumpster Kid," a celochrome print by photographer David Allison of Missouri. Wittkopp described the photograph as "technically masterful."

• Diana Garmann of Madison Heights, whose oil paintings, "Old Main" and "Roses," were cited for their

painterly qualities and skillful use of paint on paper and canvas.

• "Threads of Memory," a watercolor painting by Connie Lucas of Canton. Wittkopp paid particular attention to the watercolor, a tongue-in-cheek commentary on art and popular culture.

The painting, appearing at first as a mere mosaic of masks, paired great art works from the past with icons of contemporary culture. Almost lost among the masks is a rendering of the artist's own face reflected in a hand mirror. "This is a nice comment on contemporary culture and the way that it has pervaded all aspects of our life," Wittkopp said.

• Gail Hyder, a Birmingham artist whose abstract pencil drawings, "An Idea of Order" and "Another Idea of Order," were included in the show. Wittkopp noted the architectural sense, and calligraphic elements within the drawings. "You can see space being divided in a two-dimensional manner," he said.

• "Untitled," a collage by Geno Tiseo of Bloomfield Hills. The combination of pressed flowers, handmade paper, bark, ribbon and a scattering of leaves was a successful combination of natural, found and created items in a work reminiscent of Victorian era shadowboxes, Wittkopp said.

Mailboxes from page 1D

Shepard of Illinois and functional ceramics artist Tom Hutton of California.

"Everybody is so nice. They don't mind donating their time."

Last year all proceeds from Hooterman's "For the Birds" show and sale were donated to the National Wild-

life Federation. She commissioned artists from around the country to make the birdhouses. A percentage of sales of ornaments at her gallery last holiday season went to agencies helping the needy.

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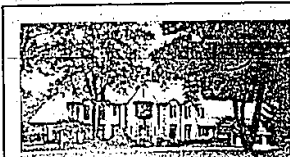
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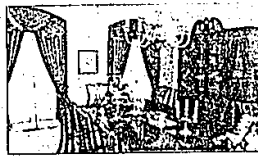
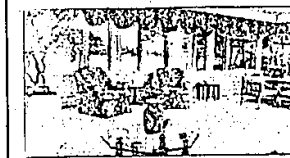
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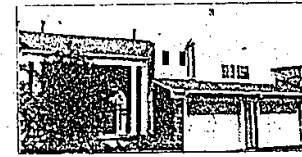
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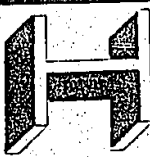
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