

CREATIVE LIVING

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MARY KLEMIC

Train exhibit tracks down dreams of past

My older brother's electric train set was full of wonders. The preparation involved was something to behold. Smoothly, with concentration, my brother would lay the sections of track — some straight, some curved — and line up the cars and add a clear liquid to the locomotive.

Fascinating rhythm

More fascination was in store as the train would travel on its route, around and between tiny structures and trees, murmuring a message in a gentle hum and clack punctuated by spurts of smoke. Unlike my brother, I couldn't keep the transformer at the right speed. All too often, when I tried to guide the little vehicle, it either went too fast, flying off the track, or too slow, stopping and emitting stern clicks. It was more fun with my brother in control of the train. My imagination was free to let me view the scene from Olympian heights, or picture myself shrunk to Lilliputian level, riding in one of the little cars.

When I was a little older, I appreciated the mysterious, romantic and historic aspects of the railroad. As an actual passenger, feeling the chugging and slight rocking of the train and looking out at the tapestry of landscape going by held a promise of adventure.

Making tracks

And so I was eager to see the exhibit "Trains, Tracks and Towns," now on display through Aug. 13 at the Creative Arts Center, 47 Williams in Pontiac. The show features model trains and train memorabilia from Bob Reynolds of Pontiac, Ace Hanses Hardware of Dearborn and other local collectors.

Night photos

Photographs by O. Winston Link, on loan from the Pierce Street Gallery in Birmingham, are displayed. Link photographed the last steam locomotives of the Norfolk and Western Railway during the 1950s. His night photos involved setups of up to three-quarters of a mile of electric cord and almost 300 flash bulbs. For one shot, the railroad slowed a train so it could be photographed at just the right time. The photographers weren't sure where the train actually was, as echoes in the valley made it sound closer.

Out of past

The haunting shots include pictures of a giant locomotive, bearing a great plume of steam, rushing past a drive-in theater or down main street right in front of businesses. In one photo, children splash in water, letting off their own steam, as a train speeds by on a bridge overhead.

Visitors to the Creative Arts Center will learn parts of locomotive history, including how these massive, powerful machines needed careful tending, and about the interurban from Birmingham and Royal Oak to Pontiac, which began operation in 1896. Postcards and a drawing of the Chessie cat are featured.

Also on hand is a working train layout of a Lionel steam locomotive. Ask the staff if you want to see it run.

Mail call

Also through Aug. 13, the center is presenting "Mail Art: Fifteen Minutes of Fame," an exhibit of postcard-size art that was mailed to the center from all over the country. The artists sent their thoughts on Andy Warhol's comment that everyone will be famous for 15 minutes.

Some of the pieces include stamps of notes, rock stars, Lucille Ball, jungle animals, the Mona Lisa and Warhol himself. "Our Gang's" Alfalfa is shown with the words, "I was famous once."

Some artists featured their own name or face. School children drew nudes, teachers, basketball stars and cartoon characters.

A rubber stamp workshop for 9- to 13-year-olds will take place Saturday, July 18, in conjunction with the exhibit. Call the Creative Arts Center at 333-7849 for more information.

Constructing art

Photo constructions using wood, metal, point, plexiglas and lighting — besides photos — are presented in "OBJECTS," a solo exhibit by Darlene Kryza of Ferndale through July 17 at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine in Rochester. Mixed media collages by Gail Ryder are on display at the PCCA during July.

Artists follow special script



Art with a flourish is on display this month at the County Galleria in "Calligraphia USA/USSR," an exhibit of about 200 pieces of Russian and American calligraphy. It is concurrent with an international calligraphers conference at Oakland University.

By MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Graceful and dynamic swirls of calligraphy dance to an international tune in "Calligraphia USA/USSR," an exhibit of Russian and American calligraphy continuing this month at the County Galleria, in the Executive Office Building at 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

Among the American participants are Elaine Grohman of Farmington Hills, Susan Skarsgard of Ann Arbor and Luther Hoffmann, chairman of the Graphic Design Department at the Center for Creative Studies.

The display runs concurrent with an international conference at Oakland University in Rochester. (See related story.) Some of the artists represented in the show will attend the conference. A reception, hosted by the Oakland County Cultural Council and provided by the Merchant of Vino, will take place 6-8 p.m. Tuesday.

The International Typeface Corp. of New York City financed and arranged the display of nearly 200 works, which has been traveling for three years. The Galleria show is its first stop in the United States.

MOSAIC, the 12th International Assembly of Lettering Artists, sponsored the exhibit. Jurors Alice, Larry Brady, Rick Cusick, Sheila Waters and Arne Wolf selected 72 pieces from more than 600 submissions to be included in the American portion of the show.

Accepted art

"Calligraphy is making its way into fine art galleries and museums," one of the jurors said. "This is perhaps the most startling development of the last few years."

"A love of letters" is how Candi Schwark of Rochester Hills, director of the MOSAIC steering committee, defined calligraphy.

"It's considered a graphic art," she said. "That keeps us from getting in some galleries."

"A lot of abstract (art in calligraphy) is going on right now. The letters make up the work. It's quite exquisite."

"It has just taken off to be more than a hobby. It's a business for a lot of people. It's a business but it's a love, too."

"The art is truly international." "People at this conference are coming from Japan, Yugoslavia," Grohman said. "It's really exciting."

Variety of images

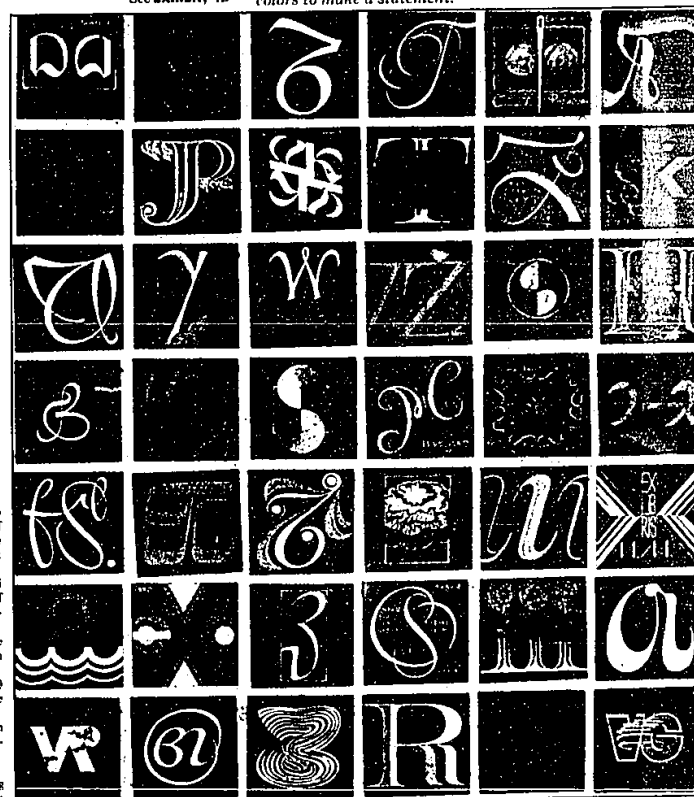
Calligraphy blends imagery with let-

ters. It draws from a variety of media and materials, including ink, gouache, dyes and gold leaf, with such backgrounds as board and cardboard as well as paper.

See EXHIBIT, 4D



Seeing stars: "The American Way" by Thomas Ingre of San Francisco combines printed words, calligraphic lettering and colors to make a statement.



AS IN CLASS

Letter perfect: "Composition," a gouache on paper work by Valery Gutar of the Moscow region, is included in "Calligraphia USA/USSR," an exhibit at the County Galleria in Pontiac this month. Calligraphers from around the country and the world will attend a conference at Oakland University in conjunction with the display.

Invitational presents 5 artists from Michigan

By MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

State pride will take different forms at O.K. Harris Works of Art in Birmingham, beginning Tuesday.

The gallery at 430 N. Woodward will present its second invitational of Michigan artists. Works by five artists — Robert Berry, Gilda Snowden, Tom Terry, Paul Bridge and Kiersten Armstrong — will be exhibited July 14 through Sept. 19.

"They really stand out," said gallery

director David Klein.

"They represent the best . . . of this area right now."

Last year's invitational displayed works by 14 artists at once. This year's exhibit will show each artist's work for two weeks.

The first exhibit, July 14-25, will feature Berry's paintings involving Captain America and classical portraiture. The opening reception will take place 6-8 p.m. Tuesday.

Berry is deeply involved in the De-

troit art scene. He helped create the Artists Cooperative and curates shows at non-profit galleries. His work is a synthesis of pop art and history painting.

Snowden's paintings and drawings will be featured July 28 through Aug. 8. She is an assistant professor at the Center for Creative Studies and gallery director at the Detroit Repertory Theater.

Terry's wall sculpture, done primarily in bronze, will be displayed Aug. 11-

22. Terry has been a past instructor at several colleges and an assistant gallery director.

Bridge's show of paintings will run Aug. 25 to Sept. 5. His art is a bold array of geometric shapes and primary colors. A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Art, he works and lives in Ann Arbor.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, to 8:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month, Monday by appointment. Call 433-3700.

Art Beat

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

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

KINETIC ENERGY

The kinetic sculptures of Frederick Prescott are now on display at the Posner Gallery, 32407 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

Prescott is constantly inspired by all that surrounds him. The vibrant colors that find their way into his art are drawn from the distinctively electric palette of the contemporary world around him. His subjects reflect his experiences as he transforms them in half real, half fantastic images

of a creative sensibility that finds joy and humor in all it perceives.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Call 626-6450.

ON THE MOVE

The Linda Hayman Gallery has closed its Farmington Hills location on Northwestern Highway. It will reopen in the fall in a different site. The new number for the gallery's house/business call service is 879-7777.

"We'll be back. I don't know where, but we'll be back," owner Linda Hayman said.

WITH ANIMATION

Taking a term from the music world, Elaine and Bob Athey have named their new Birmingham art gallery Gallery Animation — Fine Art from the Animated Film. The name means "with animation."

The Atheys' gallery, 574 N. Woodward, displays and sells animation art, in particular cartoon cels (celluloids), model sheets, story boards and production drawings.

The husband-and-wife team opened for business at the end of April and is quickly becoming a viable part of the string of art shops on the east side of north Woodward. With almost all of their personal collection on display, the Atheys have filled the walls of their 1,200-square foot gallery with colorful art that brings back good memories and warm feelings of nostalgia.