

CREATIVE LIVING

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MARY KLEMIC

Artistic expressions take on many forms

What's the scene, and being seen, around and about in Oakland County: Two artists featured through Oct. 31 at the Habitat/Shaw Gallery, 32255 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, get down to earth in different ways.

George Timock, a graduate of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, examines the vessel and the reiki process. He creates a balance or play of textures and colors.

"I don't derive my shapes from historical pottery — from Greece or Crete," Timock said. "Probably the greatest impact I've ever experienced is the lava flows in Hawaii. When I saw the serrated edge of the cone at Kilaua, and the miles and miles of lava flows to the sea, I was at a loss for words. It was a discovery of the exterior and interior of my work in nature."

The vessels are almost geologic in their irregular shapes and layers of colors. They may have the texture of sand or asphalt or resemble cloth, and may feature gentle images of feathers, leaves or symbol-like patterns. In any case, they present a natural balance and invite personal references and associations.

The other artist at Habitat/Shaw, Michaela Dicosola, creates mixed media sculptures that comment on ills and problems in society. Their effect is different from Timock's works. Rather than softly stir personal associations, they confront, repulse or fascinate.

"With the use of color and texture, my forms are generally abstract, unsettling and at times horrifying; yet I draw on recognizable subject matter in nature for my visual language," Dicosola said.

"The works make the viewer think of strange creatures that have just crawled out of some mysterious underground niche. Their bodies resemble pods, sometimes with hair and horns, and their large, gaping mouths may bare sharp teeth. Other black, writhing figures are almost human forms, with tusks instead of arms."

Versatile vessels

Gardens may be through for the year, but the subject of gardening takes a new "root" in a display through Oct. 31 at the Swidler Gallery, 308 W. Fourth in Royal Oak.

The gallery is featuring indoor gardening containers or cachepots (French for "pot holders") by 17 studio artists. Designers from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township and Troy, among other area communities, used the versatile vessels for striking floral displays.

The cachepot became a popular indoor gardening container in France in the mid-1700s. Today the pot's uses include a holder for flowers, topiaries, fruit and bread, or as a wine cooler.

At Swidler, the pot takes many artistic forms in a variety of media, among them earthenware, stoneware and porcelain. They may resemble leaves and flowers, or their edges may smoothly undulate or look ragged. One looks like a cactus, another like parts of a car, while another presents a sleek, curving, futuristic shape.

Taking shape

Speaking of shapes, many different forms are on display in a show by the Sculptors Guild of Michigan at the Bellini Art Center, 6390 Rochester Road at Square Lake Road in Troy, continuing to Oct. 28. Some pieces make your spirits soar, others make you think.

The small "Vesta," a bronze figure with sharp angles by Sylvia Perle, won first place. "Envisioning," a faceless, rough, bronze figure by Helena Sadowski, won second place. Charles by Charles, a cherry wood "Dolphin," which won third place, rises vertically instead of leaping horizontally.

Honorable mention awards went to Rosemary Busch for "Pensive," a bronze figure that looks like art deco; Mac Cameron for "Safari Silhouette," a bronze green giraffe; and Kay Harding for "Oriental Princess," a glazed clay figure with flowing hair.

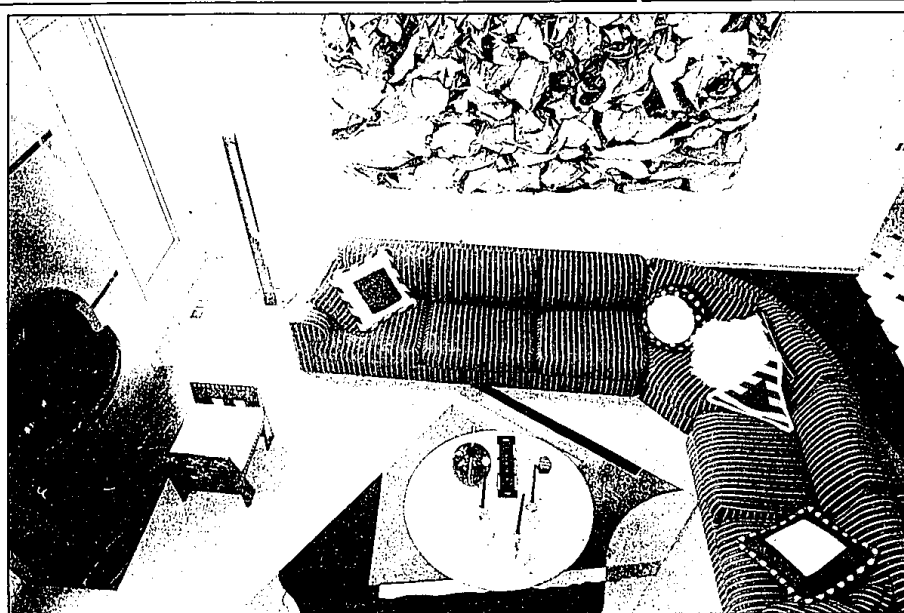
Reba Pintzuk's "Totemic Image I" and "II" are welded aluminum works, painted red, forming a figure. "Madame" by David Mandberg is a wooden image with blunt features. "Weeping Woman" is an abstract in smooth alabaster by Earle Davis. Constance Fleishig's clay "Freezing Winds" features bristles apparently angled by a breeze.

"Wild Dancers" is a clear resin hanging piece by Joyce Gottlieb that dances in the sunlight. Betty Laidlaw presents vague creatures or objects in alabaster, terra cotta and soapstone, and her instantly recognizable "Tond" brings a smile.

Energetic expression

Jean Marie McKnight's new works, on display to Oct. 30 at Gallery Birmingham, 390 E. Maple in Birmingham, leap joyously around a surface that is bordered in colorful patterns or what looks like lace. The dynamic works are like collages, with arrangements of strong hues and shapes that lead the eye in a bold, lively dance. Sometimes the strips of colors create movement. Other times arrows and lines add to the energy.

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SHARON LE MOYNE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bold and beautiful: Color and pattern combine for a lively, dramatic effect in the living room of this Farmington Hills home. The black and white striped sectional provides plenty of comfortable seating, while the striped pillows, geometric rug and bright fabric wallhanging add color and interest.

Interiors boast modern, eclectic look

■ Two Oakland County homes strike different notes on a contemporary theme. Individuality permeates each home's interior design.

BY CATHERINE COLLINS LEE
STAFF WRITER

At first glance, these two contemporary homes might seem to have little in common.

The custom-designed home in Farmington Hills is bold and dramatic: an overstuffed black and white sectional dominates the living room, punctuated by strong colors and geometric shapes.

Al and Paulyn Myers' Rochester Hills home is more understated. The expansive living room, decorated in muted gray, gold and jade, looks out on a woods and is accented by water birds and Oriental pieces.

■ 'So many times with contemporary, you use something low and leather. This is large and overstuffed. It's comfortable and cushy — you get into this.'

Judy Welch
interior designer

But both homes have in common large, open spaces, clean lines and lots of light. Window treatments are minimal or non-existent. Because there's little clutter, the unusual accent pieces stand out.

When a Farmington Hills woman asked Gorman's Gallery of Fine Furniture interior designer Judy Welch to help decorate her new home, Welch wanted it to reflect the wom-

an's outgoing, outspoken personality.

Together, they chose bold colors and hard surfaces, like marble, granite and tile. But the woman also wanted a living room the family could truly live in. So she and Welch found ways to make it comfortable and practical as well.

The large living room, with a 17-foot cathedral ceiling, is just off the tile foyer, down a step and next to the dining room. The curved walls in the foyer are echoed in the marble-edged curve at the end of the foyer floor leading into the living room and in the arched fireplace.

The fireplace is set at counter level in a stainless steel, floor-to-ceiling column on the far wall and trimmed with black marble. The column, focal point of the room, was built by the husband's company to reflect his work as an aluminum and steel broker. Windows on either side of the fireplace look out on ravines,

woods and trails in the undeveloped commons area of the subdivision.

The black and white striped sectional sofa that dominates the room was chosen for comfort. It's accented by large red, black and white pillows with different geometric designs.

"So many times with contemporary, you use something low and leather," Welch said. "This is large and overstuffed. It's comfortable and cushy — you get into this."

The square coffee table in front of the sofa, made of linen lacquered with a coating similar to polyurethane, also is practical. Hand-blown Mexican candlesticks with black candles are on the table.

Because the room is so large, the women felt it would hold two pieces of art, both of which add color and style to the room. Underneath the coffee table is a red rug with many

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Sculptor's variety of work is full of life

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Joyce Gottlieb's art is full of life, and her life is full of art.

It isn't just that her West Bloomfield home is a treasure trove of art, a place filled with her works that is also her studio (sculpting in the basement, drawing upstairs, glass work in the garage).

But the artist also finds much of her inspiration in what she sees around her, inside and outside the home. She is turning more toward abstract works than realism these days.

"I don't want a piece by itself any more," said Gottlieb, who teaches at Schoolcraft College and in West Bloomfield Continuing Education. "I want the piece telling a tale."

Gottlieb is one of the more than 125 artists participating in the 29th annual Sholem Aleichem Institute Art Show and Sale, taking place Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25, at the Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road in Farmington Hills.

The show will feature works in a variety of media by both established

and new artists. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Donation is \$2. Door prizes donated by exhibiting artists will be awarded Saturday night.

For more information, call the Sholem Aleichem Institute office at 553-7040.

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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.

■ FALL SHOW

"Autumn Inspirations '92: A Point of View," the fall show of the Palette and Brush Club, continues to Oct. 29 at Livonia City Hall, 3300 Civic Center Drive. Award-winning artist and instructor Karen Wydra is the juror. The exhibit will be open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 7-9:30 p.m. Oct. 26-28.

Award winners include Estelle Nelson of Southfield, third prize; Barbara Demonne of West Bloomfield, Janus Benda of Farmington Hills and Janet Storm of Rochester, honorable mention; and Jeri Fellwolk of Farmington and Lillian Rodgers of Birmingham, special mention.

■ ART BY MAIL

A mailbox auction to benefit the continuing

Art Beat

work of the Archives of American Art will take place 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at the 300 Galleria Officecenter, on Northwestern Highway at 12 Mile and Telegraph in Southfield.

The Archives sent mailboxes to more than 100 nationally recognized artists, architects and designers, with the assignment to turn the mailboxes into works of art. The spectacular results will be auctioned.

The mailboxes will be unveiled at a gala patron/press preview party 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at 300 Galleria Officecenter. They will remain on public display in the Galleria atrium 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday until the auction.

People attending the preview will have the first chance to place bids. A movable feast catered by R.I.K.S. Restaurant and music by Eric Brandon and Friends will add to the festivities.

All of the mailboxes will be held for the Nov. 19 auction, which will be hosted by developer Forbush-Cohen/Neer Associates and conducted by Robert Woolley, Sotheby's senior vice presi-

dent. Admission to the auction is \$25 per person. For more information, call the Archives' Detroit office at 226-7544.

The Archives, a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution, is the only national organization exclusively dedicated to ensuring that recognized artists will live through their documents and interviews as well as through their art. Founded in Detroit in 1954, the Archives now has four other regional centers, in New York, Washington, D.C., Boston and Los Angeles.

■ ON BOARD

People who have been re-elected for two-year terms on the board of directors of the Rochester Arts Commission/Paint Creek Center for the Arts board include T. Andrew Aston, assistant director, Center for the Arts, Oakland University; Annette Ballan, trustee, Detroit Institute for the Arts; Barbara Corbett, media representative, Applied Technology Publications; Rosemary Geist, committee, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan; and Brett Sanford, assistant vice president, First of America Bank, Rochester.

The non-profit RAC/PCCA provides art classes, contemporary exhibitions and community outreach programs to the greater Rochester area. Each September, it sponsors the Art 'n' Apples Festival in Rochester Municipal Park.