

# CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1992

**DOWN TO EARTH**



MARTY FIGLEY

## Book whets appetite for garden planning

After the photos and drawings in "The Garden Book," John Brookes (Crown, \$22.50, paper), have whetted your appetite, sit down and study how to plan and develop a similar garden. There are many from which to choose.

Brookes teaches with text and illustrations, something for almost every garden situation. Information about caring for the garden and all it involves makes this book all encompassing.

"The Healthy Indoor Plant," Charles C. Powell and Rosemarie Rosetti (Rosewall Publishing \$27, paper), approaches the care of indoor plants with the idea that the procedures are interrelated.

This complete guide (especially good for commercial interior-scapers) is written in a direct manner and takes the guesswork away. Learn what the professionals do to grow healthy plants and where to get advice for specific problems.

Quantity discounts are available. Write to the publisher, Dept. GE, Box 2920, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Add \$2.50 shipping and handling.

**For the birds**

A miniature book, reproduced exactly as the original, is one of Abbeville Press' Tiny Folio Series. "Audubon's Birds of America," Roger Tory and Virginia Maria Peterson (\$10.95), contains 900 illustrations. In addition, the biography of Audubon and the progression of his life as an artist help the reader better understand him.

In "The Exuberant Garden and the Controlling Hand," William H. Frederick Jr. (Little/Brown, \$50), the author, a landscape architect with 50 years of experience growing and studying plants, shows how gardens can be successful by using those species best suited for a situation.

His wonderful designs are illustrated with lively photographs and drawings. Half of the book is devoted to valuable information such as cultural requirements for 600 plants. Lists are separated by zones, flowering times, leaf textures and other categories. The text easily guides and encourages. Excellent.

**Flower passion**

"A Passion for Flowers," Penny Black (Simon & Schuster, \$30), depicts a different slant on using fresh, dried and pressed flowers in innovative ways.

Black relates her experiences in her own English garden through the seasons as only an artist can, interspersing her text with the poetry of others. The more-than-40 flower projects seem almost incidental. They are sometimes quite involved.

"The Garden Diary," Maggie Malone (Sterling, \$12.95), will be an appreciated gift to gardeners who like to keep records. This diary suggests chores appropriate to each month (planting what, when, etc.) and features 12 herbs as a bonus. Plenty of space to log personal gardening events.

**Humming along**

"The Hummingbird Garden," Matthew Tekulsky (Crown, \$12.95), suggests that plants can be grown for these ephemeral creatures in conjunction with other plants. He also describes many species and their migration patterns and tells experiences of hummingbird fanciers. Plant lists, flower, color and bloom time are included. "The relationship between hummingbirds and the flowers . . . is an intimate and ancient one," Tekulsky said.

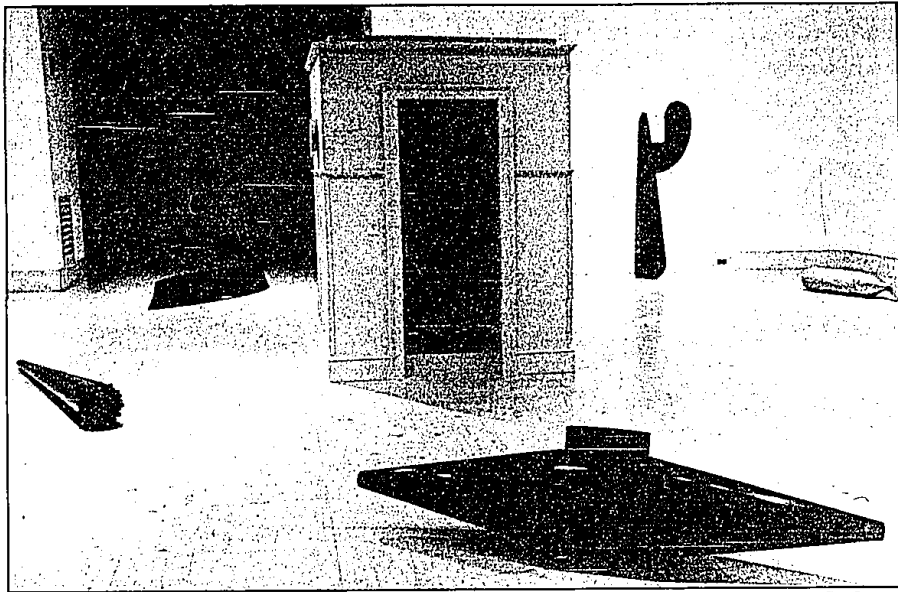
Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can hear her leave a message by dialing 953-2047 on a touch-tone telephone, then her mailbox number, 1859.

## Yard seminars slated

English Gardens, 6370 Orchard Lake Road at Maple in West Bloomfield, will conduct free seminars for the public in January and February.

The one-hour sessions will take place 11 a.m. Saturdays in the Garden Center. For more information, call John Van Houten at 851-7506.

The seminars include: Jan. 9, "Winter Survival for House Plants" by Lorrie O'Brien; Jan. 16 and Feb. 6, "Feeding Our Feathered Friends: Attracting Birds to Your Yard" by Lynn Osborn; Jan. 23, "Flowering Plants: Extend Their Life and Re-flowering" by Mary Jan McNeigh; Jan. 30, "Arranging Silk Flowers and Plants" by Russ Lamoreaux; and Feb. 13, "Spring Revival For Your House Plants" by Sandie Marcukaitis.



Making arrangements: "A Siege in the Room: New Sculpture by Heather McGill" at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum features large, free-standing objects around a small room to comment on exploitation. The installation is the artist's first solo exhibition at Cranbrook since she was appointed head of its sculpture department in fall 1991.

## A room with a point of view

### Artist arranges for commentary



An installation by Heather McGill at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills comments on exploitation.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

The creative clutter is both a conundrum and a commentary. It's part of the installation "A Siege in the Room: New Sculpture by Heather McGill," continuing through Jan. 10 at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, 1221 N. Woodward in Bloomfield Hills.

The display is the first solo exhibit by McGill since she was appointed head of Cranbrook's Department of Sculpture in fall 1991. It challenges

exploitation and domination in a patriarchal society.

A small room is at the center of the installation, literally and figuratively. It is a little house. Its outside walls look like walls from the inside of a house, with such features as a light switch, moldings and arrangements of stoneware dinner plates.

These plates bear gold-lettered text from the 1978 book "Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her" by Susan Griffin. They refer to the practice of collecting and displaying china, as

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well as to the act of serving and the role of the server.

The walls and floor of the inside of the structure are made of overlapping sheets of mica, illuminated from behind by flickering, flame-shaped light bulbs that the viewer can turn off or on with a switch. The viewer's image is reflected in a vague blur that changes as he or she moves.

Scattered around the room are 10 large objects the artist calls "tools for functioning." The vague shapes of some could be common, domestic objects, or a type of strange weapon. For example, is that a key, or an ax? A can opener, or a bayonet? Is that just a foot bath? Is this really a club?

Their shapes are altered as the viewer approaches them from different angles and perspectives.

The exaggerated size of these objects makes them threatening. Their colors — red, pink, black, green, silver and gold — make them more ambiguous. They look heavy but are actually lightweight, suggesting that things aren't always what they seem.

Some of the items are toys traditionally associated with males, such as a ship. These pieces are smaller than the others, and so are less threatening or dominating.

Hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children, senior citizens and full-time students, free for children under age 7 and museum members. Call 645-3312.

## Exhibition presents angels in different light

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

With such songs as "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" recently in the air, it's easy to think that the current exhibit at the G.R. N'Namdi Gallery in Birmingham is in keeping with the season.

But the display at 161 Townsend puts angels in a different light. The show, continuing through Jan. 16, features all works by 35-year-old

Detroit native Yolanda Sharpe. Called "Angels: Wings of Fire," the shaped canvases interpret the images and folklore of the heavenly hosts.

Angels have a "fantazizing mystery of their existence," the artist said. Just when it seems about to be revealed, she said, something comes to keep it veiled.

The pieces have such names as "Guardian Angel," "Raphael," "Guardian of Paradise" and "Seraph."

But this exhibit doesn't present white-gowned, winged creatures. Instead, the viewer sees circles, S shapes and curves that are robust kaleidoscopes of color. They suggest the energy and devotion behind the usual representations of angels.

Combinations include glowing yellow and white, flame-like red and blue, shining aluminum and gold leaf, aqua, pink and patterns.

The shapes could be halos, or open mouths; a pair of wings, or a harp; a

part of a wing, or a song that turned into color when it was captured in air. Some strokes on close inspection resemble faces or mouths.

The pieces carry a sense of joy and music. Indeed, Sharpe studied art, piano and voice at Interlochen in summer 1974. She earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Michigan State University and a master of fine arts degree from Wayne State University.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Call 642-2700.

## 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.

**RINGING IN NEWS**

Macy's, the prestigious national retailer, is now offering the award-winning designs of jewelry manufacturer Sharon G. The Sharon G line is also available at Robert Alexander Jewelers of Farmington Hills. The husband-and-wife team of Norman and Sharon Gornblin of Southfield, with more than 30 years of jewelry experience, design and manufacture the rings.

**NEW GALLERY**

Moscow artist Luda Tcherniak announces the opening of the Luda Art Gallery at 103 B E. Fourth in downtown Rochester. Hours are noon

to 9 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, or by appointment. Call 652-7052.

Born in Moscow, Tcherniak studied at the Moscow Art School, a highly selective and competitive boarding school for the Soviet Union's most talented art students, and studied scenic and costume design at the Institute of Theatrical Artists.

In Moscow, she worked for the Central Artistic Design Bureau, as project designer for theaters, parks, playgrounds, offices, stores and restaurants. She also worked for the state historical museum, developing architectural renderings for the restoration of historic Moscow churches.

Tcherniak designed costumes and scenery for several state theaters of drama, opera and ballet, all the while continuing to practice her principal love, painting.

Tcherniak had many exhibits in Russia, displaying original batik, interior and theatrical de-

signs, watercolors, oil paintings, acrylics and graphics. Since she came to the United States in 1991, she had several exhibits across the country.

The gallery is currently showing Tcherniak's landscape series. Based on the great impressionist masters, her dynamic use of texture and vibrant palette result in works of hyper-realism and great passion.

**OPERATORS**

Joyce Hurst of Bloomfield Hills has been elected to a one-year term on the 36-member Michigan Opera Theatre Board of Directors. Among the new members elected to two-year terms on the 286-member MOT Board of Trustees are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Angott of Orchard Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Avandonk, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hurst, Mr. and Mrs. E. Michael Mutchler, Mr. and Mrs. James Pamel, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shaler and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sherman of Bloomfield Hills; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cohn of West Bloomfield; and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wasserman of Birmingham.