

# CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993



MARY KLEMIC

## Artists find clear, colorful alternatives

**B**lair Reed brings a world of experience to his glass art.

Working from his small studio nestled on Bowers Street in Birmingham, Reed puts images and designs into glass, using a sandblasting technique. Many of them were inspired by his independent study of ancient art.

Egyptian hieroglyphics, American Indian motifs and Ice Age figures are among the graceful patterns in Reed's panels, fountains and freestanding pieces. He learned how to read hieroglyphics, and now incorporates such symbols as those for life, birth and integrity.

"Egypt to me is just a really wonderful culture," Reed said.

Reed is a self-taught artist who started working in sandblasted glass in 1978. He worked with pen and ink before he got into sandblasting and airbrushing.

"Most of my work . . . reflects that."

For example, the artist can achieve a three-dimensional effect with feathery lines.

The medium of glass holds a special promise and challenge for him.

"There are so many things I can do with it. It transmits light and so the images come alive."

Reed is going beyond murals and sculptural pieces. He is developing fountains with their own gentle waterfalls. It seems safe to say that he'll never run out of ideas.

"I used to have nightmares about that. When I was 17, I thought, 'When I'm 30 years old am I still going to have ideas?'"

He smiled. "No problem."

Reed has completed major works for Temple Beth El in Birmingham and the Opus One and Pegasus restaurants in Detroit, among other sites. His experience includes lecturing at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association in 1988 and having one-man exhibits at Charles Warren Jewelers at Somerset Mall in Troy for Michigan Glass Month 1983-85.

### Glittering Galleria

This is the time of year when the County Galleria, in the Executive Office Building at 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac, is adorned in a special way. It's the time for "Image, Light and Structure 1993," an invitational glass exhibition. Glass works of art in all shapes and sizes are displayed in the Galleria like jewels or ornaments as the show continues through April 30. (Call 858-1048.)

A visit there reveals the versatility of the medium. Artists working in glass can take the spectrum apart and give each part of it another dimension.

Among those featured in the exhibit are Bernie Merritt of Bloomfield Hills, who was awarded first place for his "Agate Banded No. 590" and "Transparency No. 445." These are smooth, clear sculptures that hold swirling lines of color in a gentle fist.

Margaret Cavanaugh of Warren took best of show for her touching, etched glass "Pista." A different mood is generated by "Cool Dude" by Robert Tralner of Orchard Lake, which arranges various flat pieces into a blue-jeaned fellow who brings a smile. Jan Culling of Rochester Hills presents "Sojourn to the Sea," showing little creatures scurrying to watery waves.

"A Corner of My World" by Debra Van Tol of Auburn, the second-place winner, features bright, three-dimensional flowers and a web against a fence. David Lynch of Ann Arbor used all clear glass sections, each with a different pattern, to make a refreshing "Bubble Up."

Kurt Johnson of Waterford received one of the honorable mention awards for "Time Spear," which resembles a clock. Joyce Gottlieb of West Bloomfield presented reclining images, "Flowing Body" and "Lady of the Night," that carry mystery in their vague, softly tinted forms.

Other artists in the Galleria display come from California, Illinois, Ohio, New York, Ontario as well as from around Michigan. Their work includes boxes, freehanging pieces, sculpture and tiles.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at 644-1100, Ext. 245.

## Show dazzles with variety

■ The 21st annual International Glass Invitational at Habatat Galleries in Farmington Hills presents a glittering variety of art works.

By LINDA ANN CHOMEN  
STAFF WRITER

**H**abatat Galleries' 21st annual International Glass Invitational presents a dazzling 50,000-square-foot showcase for more than 100 established and emerging artists working in the contemporary studio glass movement through May 8 in the Triatria Complex, 32255 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

The oldest and largest exhibition of its kind, the international documents what's new in glass. Cast, fused, slumped, laminated, lamp worked and blown, all shine equally here.

Compounding the sparkle this year, Habatat produces five separate pavilions focusing on the cultural experiences influencing work by artists from France, Italy, Japan and the United States. Flags flying and music of the individual countries playing in the background add flavor to the exhibits, leaving visitors with the feeling they've crossed the border.

### International flavor

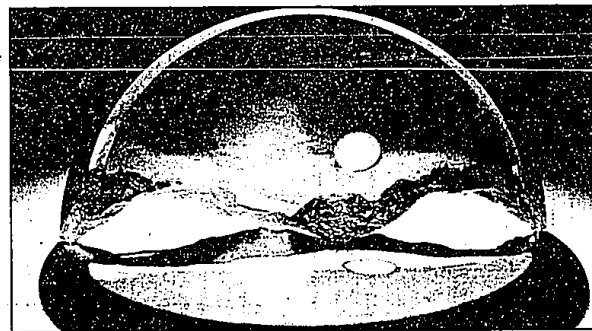
Scaled down surveys of glass by artists from Belgium, Sweden, England, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and The Netherlands provide further cultural sampling.

"I'm excited about the special exhibits of different countries. Before this I had wanted to show the international unity; how there were really

See EXHIBIT, 5D



'Grail Series': This work by Richard Ritter will be featured at Habatat Galleries' 21st annual International Glass Invitational.



'Mountain Skycaps': Mark Peiser captures a colorful scene in glass.

D. SCHUBERT

## Creative glass wizard comes to blows for art

By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

To visit glass blower Stan Megdall's little workshop in Birmingham is to enter a magic world.

The furnace is like a resting dragon, emitting a steady, subdued roar. Megdall is a wizard at work, gracefully blending heat and color to produce

such art as bowls, vases, perfume bottles, ornaments, platters and decanters.

Megdall will visit the Atrium Gallery, 109 N. Center in Northville, 1-5 p.m. Saturday. He will present a video that demonstrates glass blowing. His glass work will be exhibited at Atrium through April.

"His perfume bottles in particular are like jewels," said Pat Jania, one of the gallery owners. "He does this foam wrap around many of them which is interesting."

### Glass glory

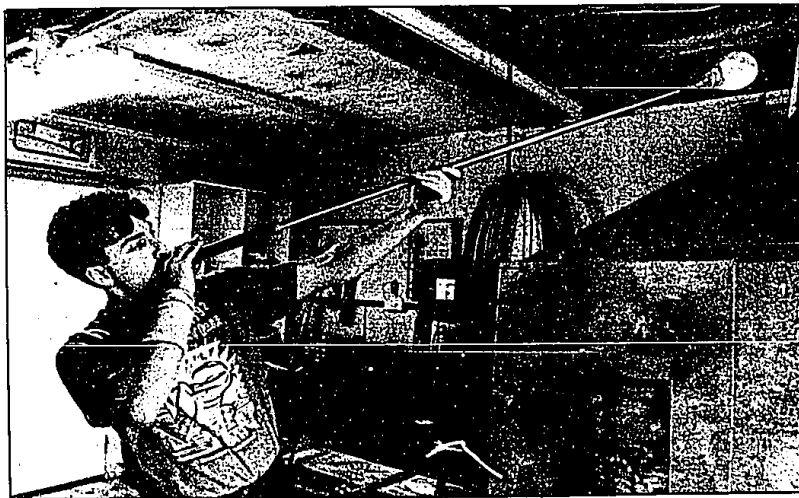
Megdall's talent involves alternately controlling and cooperating with a

medium that is both fiery and fragile. "It does everything that I want it to do," he said.

"I can let the glass kind of flow where it wants to go and control it very slightly."

"Glass captures the essence of a

See ARTIST, 5D



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glass action: Artist Stan Megdall of Birmingham blows into a glowing mass of hot glass at the end of a long rod. The glass blower, who makes a variety of bottles and bowls, will present a video demonstration of his art at the Atrium Gallery in Northville this week-end.

## Garden seminar set

The Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association will present an annual and perennial seminar 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 3, in the Holiday Inn at Laurel Park, 1-275 and Six Mile, Livonia.

The \$5 per-person cost includes buffet lunch. To register, call 646-4992. Topics will include shade gardening, unusual annuals and the latest in horticultural supplies. Garden experts will give advice. A gardener's marketplace will be featured.

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.

### GERSHWIN, BY GEORGE!

The Birmingham Musicale will present a spring benefit concert of Gershwin tunes Friday and Sunday, April 23 and 25, at The Community House, 890 S. Bates in Birmingham. Proceeds will go to musical scholarships. Concert times are 8 p.m. April 23 (cabaret seating, cash bar, 7:15 p.m.) and 2 p.m. April 25. Tickets are \$25

## Art Beat

patron, \$35 sponsor, \$50 benefactor. For more information, call 647-8329 or 642-2392.

### ARTFUL GARDEN

Art and gardening have come together at Meadow Brook at Oakland University in Rochester. The Artful Garden, a garden exposition and marketplace of artistic design for the outdoors, takes place Thursday-Sunday. The event features garden vignettes planned by landscape architects and designers and interior designers.

Works by artists will be for sale. A garden cafe will serve light refreshments, coffee and tea.

Proceeds will benefit ROPARD, the Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and Related Diseases, which is working to find a cure for impaired vision and blindness in premature babies. Call 861-1332 or 855-9071 for more information.

### AWARD WINNER

Marcia Freedman of Bloomfield Hills has won \$500 for her unframed painting in the All-Michigan All-Media competition of the Krasl Art Center of St. Joseph. Out of the works submitted by 242 Michigan artists, Robert Wilbert, Wayne State University professor of painting, selected 100 pieces by 83 artists.