

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1993

CREATIVE LIVING

D

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Take special care to raise cyclamens

When they clink, they need a drink; when they clunk, they're drunk." So says Sylvia Gray, owner and operator of Gray's Greenhouse, 8828 Lilley in Plymouth, near Joy.

In August 1992 the seeds for the 1993 crop of cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*) were sown.

"It takes a long time to grow them . . . at least 15 months. We sow the seeds in shallow germinating trays (about 1-1/2 inches deep) and put them in the dark for six weeks. Once they start germinating we bring them out to the light so they don't get too spindly."

"When they get too crowded in the shallow trays (about the first of the year) we plant them into the 32 cell packs (3 inches deep) about the end of May, when the greenhouses are starting to empty out. We put them into 4-inch clay pots, bring them into the greenhouse, then about the end of July, transfer them to the 7-inch clay pots."

I asked why clay pots instead of plastic. She said she believes plants grow better in clay. The plants can breathe and you can tell the pot is dry or wet from the color of the pot and the sound made when it is tapped with the coupling end of a hose — thus her little rhyme.

This wholesale/retail nursery was begun in the 1960s by Gray's father, Alex Wnuk, who liked growing cyclamens. Gray and her daughter, Alyce Humphrey, have carried on that tradition.

Last year they planted 2,400 seeds and the result was 1,700 plants for this season. A major portion of the large cyclamens will be sold to regular wholesale customers while the rest will be sold retail.

Super cyclamens

Miniature cyclamens have been bred for fragrance, especially "Sachet," "Mirabilis" and others are also available in the miniature size — great for a small table.

The leaves of the plant are heart-shaped and variegated green, while the butterfly-like blossoms are various shades of pink, red and white. This native of Greece, the Mediterranean Islands to Syria needs bright light, but not hot sun. Cool temperatures (60-70 degrees Fahrenheit) are the best. "Heat just exhausts them," Humphrey says.

Bright winter sunlight suits them just fine. Lots of sun produces an abundance of short foliage and many flowers.

Feeding schedule

When the pot "clinks" and is therefore dry, a 4-inch pot will take six ounces of water. Let the runoff set in the saucer for about a half hour — the plant may absorb it. Keep the water off the leaves.

In the greenhouse the plants are fed once a month in the summertime, but in the winter hardly at all. They need to rest in the winter but will still bloom.

"Starting the first of May feed the plant on a regular basis (we use Peters Fertilizer 20-20-20 . . . I love it and recommend it. . . 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water," Gray says.

After winter

These plants will bloom all winter and sometimes longer. When the blossoms fade, just grasp the stem and give a quick jerk to remove the stem from the base.

"They can be put outdoors in the spring. Humphrey puts hers underneath a tree (on the grass) where they get protection from hot midday sun, and resumes feeding them. In the fall they can be again returned indoors and enjoyed for many years."

See FIGLEY, 5D



MARTY FIGLEY

Super cyclamens: Cyclamens, such as these at Gray's Greenhouse in Plymouth, are becoming a favorite holiday plant.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- A visit with famous portrait artist Patricia Hill Burnett, honorary chairwoman of the Cranbrook House Auxiliary Holiday Tables '93.
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.

Black, white colors imagery

■ Black and white paintings by Richard Kozlow of Birmingham take on colors and shades as they are viewed. The works are exhibited at the Posner Gallery in Farmington Hills.

By MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER



Black and white. The phrase often suggests starkness, or cold clarity. But in the hands of Birmingham artist Richard Kozlow, the phrase becomes a tantalizing promise, connoting shadows rich in images and meanings that are released as they warm to the viewer's imagination.

"Kozlow in Black and White," an exhibit of Kozlow's paintings, will be at the Posner Gallery, 32407 Northwestern Highway, between 14 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. The one-man show of more than 80 works, all in black and white, opens with a reception 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, and continues through Nov. 27.

"They almost look like photographs," the artist said in his Royal Oak studio.

"I just love black and white . . . The difference between black and white and color is you really can't fake anything in black and white. Black and white — it's right there."

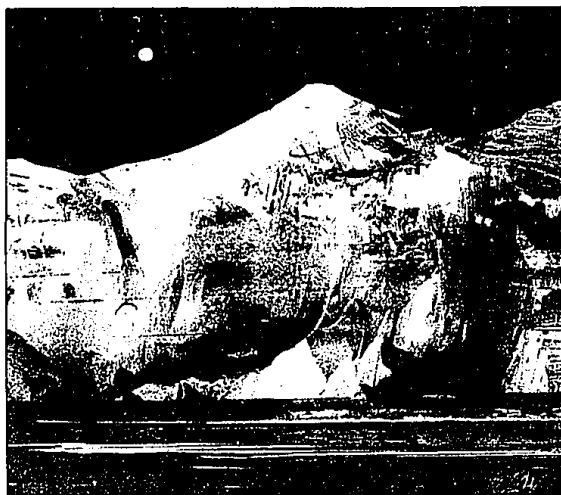
"We're extremely excited about it," gallery owner Madeline Posner said of the exhibit. "They're wonderful, refreshing. The work is outstanding; the black and white is very unique."

The paintings are tempera on paper. They include abstract works and landscapes. Some are reminiscent of photos by Ansel Adams.

In a statement, Kozlow refers to "these black and white paintings, in all their glowing color." What sounds like a contradiction becomes a description when the paintings are seen.

Just as forms in a darkened room become recognizable as the eye grows accustomed to the low light, so do shapes and color tones in Kozlow's paintings become more defined as the works are viewed.

Some feature mountain scenery from Alaska to Ecuador, including snow-capped peaks and sides of chiseled layers. Others are from nature and organic forms, such as a meadow,



cornstalks or watery settings. All can be illusions for the viewer to find his or her own imagery. This imagery could be subtle shades in the sky with a full moon, in the rustling suggested by a field of stalks, the gentle swirling on a water surface or a shape that could be a fish underwater.

"I could call this 'Fall' and you would see all the colors of fall in there," Kozlow said of one of the pieces.

He jokingly called the collection a "Kozlow Rorschach test," referring to the inkblot interpretation test.

"I'm letting people see what they want to see."

Kozlow is known for colorful works — landscapes of scenes from around the world and sensitive or celebratory depictions of people.

But he has always enjoyed working in black and white. He published a collection of black and white drawings, "Of Man's Inhumanity to Man," in 1965, and exhibited a series of black and white paintings based on the battlefields of Spain in Europe and North America.

See EXHIBIT, 6D

Colorful black and white: Whether a mountain scene (left) or what looks like an underwater setting (below), the black and white paintings by Birmingham artist Richard Kozlow in his exhibit at the Posner Gallery in Farmington Hills carry a variety of illusions. The show opens with a reception tomorrow.



Work made to remember

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, artist Alice Frank has donated to the Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield a work entitled "Zachor" 5693-5705."

The uprising was the largest and most dramatic episode of Jewish armed resistance against the Nazis. "Zachor" 5693-5705 "is an evocative tribute to the 6 million Jews who died during the Holocaust. The piece is prominently displayed in the museum at 6602 W. Maple. Call 661-0840 for information."

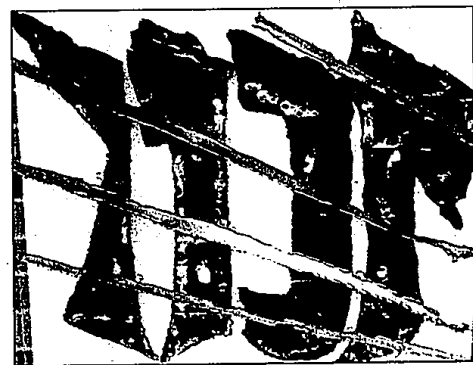
"I have had a lifelong interest in the Holocaust," said Frank, a West Bloomfield artist. "For many years, I served on the Anti-Defamation League committee that spoke to schools in the Detroit area on the subject. I am honored that the Holocaust Memorial Center accepted my gift."

The piece is composed of the enameled letters of the Hebrew word "Zachor" ("to remember") trapped behind barbed wire. The tops of the letters drip with red, a symbol of the blood spilled during the Holocaust. Beneath and through the red, the colors blue and white emerge. These colors represent the Jewish people and shine through despite the barbed wire and the blood.

Frank, whose work has been exhibited in shows and galleries throughout the United States and Canada, received her formal education at the University of Michigan. She also attended Seoul National University in Korea and studied Asian art during extended trips to Japan, Thailand and Malaysia. These Eastern influences play a role in her current work, a mixed-media approach to art primarily through the creative and unusual use of enameling.

To create "Zachor" 5693-5705, "Frank cut the letters out of metal with an acetylene torch. Then she applied a glass-like colored substance and different metallic oxides to the surface of the metal forms and fired them in a kiln. To attain the colors present in the finished piece, the artist went through this process more than 30 times.

It took Frank almost three years to achieve the effect she desired. Twice she scrapped the work and started afresh. The result is a stunningly beautiful work of art.



'Zachor': West Bloomfield artist Alice Frank donated this metal work to the Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield. The piece features the enameled letters of the Hebrew word "Zachor" ("to remember") behind barbed wire. It commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling 644-1314.

WINGING IT

Join Wild Birds Unlimited in Hawthorne Plaza, 2626 S. Rochester Road in Rochester Hills, Monday, Nov. 15, when special guest speaker Joe Rogers from the Wildlife Recovery Association will introduce some very special friends. Rogers' presentations at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. will include four or five different, non-releasable, live birds of prey. Learn the history, habits and special adaptations of these magnificent birds, marvel at how they interact with people and find out what can be done to help. Bring cameras — flashes aren't a problem. Call 852-5220 for reservations. Rogers

Art Beat

has participated for many years in the Peregrine Falcon Release Program and bald eagle studies.

EXHIBIT AT OCC

The 12th annual Helen DeRoy Art Exhibit, sponsored by Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, opens with a meet the artist reception and awards presentation 7-9 p.m. today in the Smith Theatre on campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Troy artist Glen Michaels juried this year's show, which continues to Dec. 2. One of the artists, Thelma Abel of Bloomfield Hills, won a purchase award.

TIMELY VISIT

Yves Piguet, fifth generation scion of the world-famous watchmaking empire, will make a rare personal appearance noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, at Jules Schubot Jewelers, 3001 W. Big Beaver Road in Troy. His visit will inaugurate a 10-city North American tour of Piguet jeweled masterpieces.

DIA DISCOUNT

Double Discount Week for Detroit Institute of Arts Founders Members will take place Friday-Thursday, Nov. 12-18, at DIA Museum Shops. For these days, members will receive a 20-percent discount, double the usual 10 percent. One of the shops is at the Somerset Collection, Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy. Call 649-2222 for information on extended holiday hours.