

EXHIBITIONS

Send calendar items about Oakland County art gallery exhibitions to *The Observer*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, fax 644-1314. Send items about Wayne County exhibitions to *The Observer*, 48150, fax 591-7279. Attention: Creative Living editor.

BACKDOOR GALLERY
"I Crave of This a Gift," a holiday show, is presented. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and by appointment, 37220 Eight Mile, two miles west of Farmington Road in Farmington, 474-8306.

GALLERY IV
Gallery IV has reopened its doors with regular hours just in time for holiday giving. Specializing in 19th and 20th century collectibles, the gallery houses Michigan's largest collection of vintage posters, as well as fine art, art

pottery, glass, vintage jewelry and watches. Hours are 1-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6447 Inkster Road, one block north of Maple in Bloomfield Hills, 810-532-1888.

OAKLAND COUNTY GALLERY
Beginning Dec. 31 — "St. Thomas: The Final Days," a multimedia presentation, will be on view through Jan. 31. The extraordinary presentation is an art essay about the demolition of Detroit's St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Officials knocked down the 67-year-old church in late 1991 and closed 26 others. The display, created by students from the Center for Creative Studies under the direction of Dorothy Kostuch, and freelance photographer Victor Pruchniewski, Christine Trojan and Emery Hrabovsky, serves to remember the beauty and mourn the loss of St. Thomas and other Detroit churches. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5

p.m. Monday-Friday in the Executive Office Building at the County Service Center, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac. Kostuch will speak on "Threatened Legacy: Detroit's Churches" at the Brown Bag Series lecture noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, in the Computer Services Building at the County Service Center on the east side of Telegraph. Also, "Environments II," presented by the Birmingham Society of Women Painters, continues to Dec. 29. For more information, call the Oakland County Office of Cultural Affairs at 810-633-9415.

ANDREA COLLINS
Through Dec. 24 — Holiday selections by gallery artists are presented at 470 N. Woodward in Birmingham. The gallery will be open until 8:30 p.m. Thursdays through Dec. 23. Call 642-4795 for other hours or information.

DETROIT ARTISTS MARKET
To Dec. 24 — The annual holiday sale represents 150 Michigan artists. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 300 River Place, Suite 1650, Detroit 313-473-3171.

LA BELLE PROVINCE
Through Dec. 25 — A French nativity scene is displayed in the window, featuring hand-sculpted Santon dolls dressed in unusual provincial clothing, expressing the joy of Art in Bloomfield Hills and is funded by the MCACA. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1200 Sixth, Suite 1108, Detroit.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Through Feb. 20 — "Warped Notions: Traditional and Contemporary Basketry Forms" continues in the ground floor gallery W104, featuring 20 examples of basketry from the DIA's permanent collection. Nationally recognized artist Kathleen Bordo Cromble will give a lecture, "In the Making: A Look at Contemporary Basketry," 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, in Lecture Hall. Also, "Intimate Visions: The Photographs of Dorothy Norman" continues through Feb. 27. Diane Kirkpatrick, professor of the history of art at the University of Michigan, will give a gallery talk on selected works in the exhibit 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30. Norman, a writer, editor and social activist, made the acquaintance and portraits of an array of cultural and political figures. Her mentor was Alfred Stieglitz, often called the father of modern photography. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends, 6200 Woodward. Recommended admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for children and students.

Lamb of West Bloomfield, who works in watercolor, sometimes adds collage. Her lively, fresh paintings range from impressionistic Michigan landscapes to colorful contemporary abstracts. Also, original works by area artists are available at affordable prices, and weekend art demonstrations are offered. A portrait artist is on site. Ask about the Santa Wish Book registry and the free drawing for a gallery gift certificate. The gallery is in Great Oaks Mall, at Walton and Livermore in Rochester. Call 651-1579.

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS GALLERY
Through January — The Design Michigan exhibit on graphic design for Michigan business, government, institutions and communities continues. The display features 54 colorful case studies illustrating successful graphic design including visual identity programs and logos, printed communications, advertising and promotional graphics, product and package graphics, trade fair displays, sign systems and architectural graphics, video graphics and the graphic design of desktop computer publications. It was developed by the Design Michigan program of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills and is funded by the MCACA. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1200 Sixth, Suite 1108, Detroit.

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ETON GALLERY
Through Dec. 30 — The Michigan Friends of Photography Members Exhibition features the diverse images of more than 50 fine art photographers. The non-profit organization is dedicated to promoting and supporting creative photography. The exhibit contains a wonderful cross section of creative work being done in Michigan. Included in the show is a striking, large scale work by Rob Kangas, head of the photo department at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak, Birmingham photographer Dayna Willard combines X-ray, photography and painting in a vibrant work depicting women. Cranbrook graduates Steve Benson, Andrea Eis, Steven Root and Judy Eliyas are also represented. The gallery is at 161 N. Eton in Birmingham. Call 649-4951.

RUBINER GALLERY
To Dec. 30 — Sculptures and paintings by Glen Michaels, one of Michigan's most celebrated and gifted artists, are exhibited. The show features his much-

claimed assemblage sculptures that incorporate tiles, bronze, fused glass and painting, and his small, jewel-like oil paintings of still life and antique toys. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 7001 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 430A, West Bloomfield, 699-5111.

GROOVE GALLERY & BOUTIQUE

Through Dec. 30 — "Shop the Groove," a holiday show exhibiting five local artists' work, continues. The artists are Barbara Pekala (ponchos, hand-painted cards, ornamental angel, hand-sewn scarves), Janet Kellman (glass tables, pins, mirrors framed in geometrical shapes, glass bowls with flowers etched inside), Cecilia Seidler (watercolor paintings of architectural scenes, gardens and windows with sunny views), Linda Littlefield (necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings incorporating semiprecious materials) and Claudia Calson-Keg (collage art with found objects and handmade paper). A holiday tree is festooned with ornaments from Africa and some trinkets from some of the featured artists. Hours are noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1230 E. Lincoln, between Main and Campbell in Royal Oak, 359-8162.

Decoration from page 1D

The White House Christmas tree, with about 7,000 ornaments, honors the Year of American Craft. Artists from around the country were invited to make ornaments for the tree, which measures 18 feet 6 inches.

"We know that the ornaments will represent the best in American crafts and style and set a standard of incomparable excellence," White House social secretary Ann Stock said in a letter sent to the artists.

The ornaments had to be three-dimensional, between five and 18 inches tall and weigh 12 ounces or less.

Nicolson primarily works in watercolor and pastel. Among other sites her art works have been shown in the Farmington Community Center, Birmingham City Hall, the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, The Community House in Birmingham, the Paint Creek Center

for the Arts, the Plymouth Community Art Center, the Detroit Institute of Arts and Detroit Artists Market.

"I was pretty much astounded," Nicolson said. "I just was rather excited."

Nicolson made a golden-haired, 9-inch angel with a lace gown and wings and a red ribbon, carrying a bouquet of red flowers. The wings were starched so they would stand out stiffly. The angel's body was stuffed with cotton.

It was the first ornament Nicolson ever made. She compared the procedure to making and dressing a doll.

While angels were the suggested theme for the tree, Risak instead chose to make a 4 1/2-inch ornament shaped like a bulb and bearing three rings.

"I was very excited," said Risak, who specializes in raku pottery and who has a piece in the Smithsonian Institution.

Figley from page 1D

Cook reminds us that the garden season begins at different times of the year for gardeners and there is hope and anticipation whenever that is. The photos are accompanied by poems and essays that relate to the garden and the plants.

Enjoy a section of "The Secret Garden" by F.H. Burnett (when Mary opens the door for the first time); H.G. Wells' account of orchids, a letter by William Morris in 1888 to his daughter, and much more. This is a volume to treasure at any time of the year, to reflect upon nature and its meaning. Beautiful.

Particular plants

"Willows, The Genus Salix," C. Newsholme (Timber Press, \$34.95), may surprise you with the number of these plants suitable for home gardens.

Newsholme takes us through the selections by size, which will help in sifting them. They have grown throughout the world since before the Ice Age and have been used in medicine, crafts and as ornamentals and ecological plants in the landscape. The line drawings show the complexity of the various species.

"Miniature Orchids," Jim and Barbara McQueen (Timber Press, \$24.95), is just the book for orchid lovers with limited space. The

McQueens operate an orchid nursery in Australia and write from personal experience. The descriptions and growing needs of 298 of these small plants are accompanied by color photographs.

"Improving Your Garden Soil" (Ortho, \$8.95) gives all the low-down on how to accomplish this goal and suggests plants for problem places. Several public gardens that had poor soil and their success in improving conditions are featured. A good basic book on the subject.

"Wild Woodlands: The Old-growth Forests of America," Bill Thomas (Taylor, \$35), eloquently tells the story of the native forests from underwater forests and deserts to alpine peaks. Thomas describes the life that exists here — birds, mammals and the vegetation — and explains the way they are interrelated; how the forests can regenerate through natural progression.

A MOST HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO YOU ALL!

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is 644-1314.

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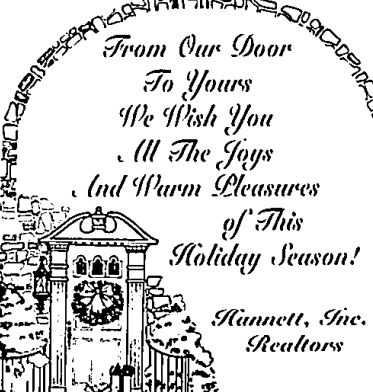
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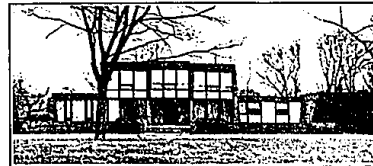
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