

Baskets by artist carry personal interests

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The baskets by internationally known fiber artist Lillian Elliott now at the Sybaris Gallery, 202 E. Third in Royal Oak (call 644-3388), represent the artist's interests.

Elliott is a native Detroit who earned a bachelor of arts degree from Wayne State University and a master of fine arts degree in ceramics and painting from the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

After she graduated in 1956 she began designing fabrics for the Lincoln/Mercury styling division of the Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, and she has continuously taught textiles and drawing since the 1960s.

Her pieces that are at the Sybaris to Dec. 31 carry a special

sense of cloth and sculpture. They can seem to flow like fabric or invigorate the surrounding air with shape or color like a sculpture or painting.

Elliott uses such barks as coconut palm, hickory and mulberry — as well as zippers, crayons and other manmade materials — to make light works with simple lines that are lively arrangements of colors and textures.

"Crown" has a rounded top and is adorned with zippers and bands. "Titan," made of matting, paint and metallic crayon, resembles a coat of mail. "Eagle," made of nylon, cedar, colored tubing and paint, looks like a soaring bird. The tapa bark "Pleated Form" suggests an open purse.

Two birch bark and linen pieces, "Siblings," have a terra cotta

color and feature thread designs that could be wishbones or dancing figures. Some of the threads spell a word. "Ceremony" is adorned with such items as pick-up sticks bearing bright stripes.

"The knots of the tree bark add to the patterns in some works. Moroccan patterns inspired others.

Harmony

Through this month, the Java House at 307 Main in Rochester is showing "Sonata-Allegro in Dimension," musical works in metal by Peter Beckett.

The pieces give metal a special flexibility as they explore an area between narrative and visual art. One features parts of a female body. Another contains a mirror and handwriting etched in metal.

Refreshing

Karen Carter Van Gamper of Troy uses watercolor and oil when she paints scenes of nature, working either outdoors on location, or from photographs taken while sailing in the Great Lakes and at a family cottage in Canada.

Van Gamper was voted "Official Artist" of the 1984 Mackinac Race. She is the December Artist of the Month at the Troy Public Library, 610 W. Big Beaver Road in the Civic Center complex (call 624-3545). Her exhibit of watercolor and oil works continues at the library through Jan. 4.

Van Gamper makes nature personal to the viewer. Seagulls line up to watch a beaver below them. A tree stands proudly in "The Sentinel." Flowers seem to be at hand to embrace a house in "Sur-

rounded By Flowers."

In another painting, a stairway leads into lush greenery, with a tantalizing blue pecking through the green as a bench beckons just beyond. Shadows add a lacy pattern to the stairs. Some folding chairs await at the end of the stairway, ready to be carried to the beach.

In a work called "Lost in Reflection," two ducks are almost camouflaged in the shimmering water around them. A portrait of driftwood and a breaker features

mirror images of knots in the wood and ripples in the water. "Secluded Waterfall" presents a sense of being alone but not lonely.

"Still Life on an Antique Quilt" includes antique bottles and a silver dish on a quilt. Books, a Tiffany lamp and a cup on a coaster give a warm feeling in an indoor scene.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at 901-2569. Her fax number is 644-1314.

Gallery volunteers sought

Gallery service volunteers are needed to greet and assist visitors in the Detroit Institute of Arts museum galleries. No special qualifications or

background are required. A training session will take place 1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, in the Holley Room of the DIA, 5200 Woodward.

In appreciation of our association during the past year, we extend our best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to Everyone.

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