



THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1994

CREATIVE LIVING

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PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

Auto art gears up memories, dreams

Around and about the area art scene: The eighth annual Hot Rod Heritage Fine Art Exhibit is well in gear at Gallery Automania, 304 East in Rochester (call (810) 656-8571).

The show of paintings and prints, the only one of its kind devoted to depicting America's hot rods through fine art, runs through May 21.

Ron Vermeiren of Leamington, Ontario, is the featured artist. His gentle, nostalgic scenes are full of details that are both realistic and dream-like, sad and warm. They seem to be fading away, lingering for a few last moments, but ready to come to life as they invite the viewer to make himself or herself at home in their and their memories.

"The Old Junkyard" features cars blanketed under snow and a sign hanging as though it could fall any minute. Pheasants investigate the surroundings. In "Street Rods" some deceptively still vehicles are in a row by a Checker Flag Speedway sign. Other scenes are set in a garage or a fast food place, lights providing a misty glow on the figures below.

More than 80 works are in the exhibit. Cars are the stars. They may glisten with liquid silver as vehicles do in a piece by Guy Shively, shine with sharp primary colors as they do in a work by Darrell Mayabb, embrace a warm, inviting sky as in a work by Robert Seabeck or take on a personality as in a piece by Dan McCrory called "Say Ah" that shows a raised hood.

New look

Some changes will be in store at Artloft, the shop of functional art at 203 E. Maple in Birmingham.

Under a new design by Peterhansera of Birmingham, the front will take on color and a dramatic look. The logo will remain the same, but it will be on a purple background, the A will be in chartreuse and the other letters in terra cotta. A cloth awning will feature tiny charms, and will come down on one side like a curtain. Artloft will remain open during the project, which is expected to start in one or two weeks.

Artloft has been at its present location for three years. Before this, it was in an upper floor in a building nearby on Woodward.

Fair forecast

It's almost time for this year's Birmingham Art Fair. The juried event will take place 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15, in Shain Park (at Bates and Merrill, south of Maple in Birmingham). Admission is free. For information, call the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association at (810) 644-0866.

At the fair, 182 artists and craftspeople will exhibit fine art, sculpture, ceramics, glass, jewelry, fibers, photography and wood work. Eight area restaurants will operate facilities in the park serving a variety of foods. A children's booth will offer hands-on pottery experience and visor, T-shirt and face painting.

Proceeds will go to the building extension fund at the BBAA, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham.

Very Special festival

A Very Special Arts Festival will take place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 6-7, at Wonderland Mall, Middlebelt and Plymouth Road in Livonia. Very Special Arts is an international organization dedicated to providing ongoing arts programs to people with disabilities.

Hundreds of participants throughout southeast Michigan are involved in Very Special Arts programs. These include the program at the Jewish Association for Residential Care in Southfield, in which 24 adults with developmental disabilities are offered movement and dance. Last Thursday, Very Special Arts Michigan, the state affiliate, presented an art auction at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak. The auction featured student and professional work donated by local artists Marshall Fredericks, Louis Redstone, John Glick, Nora Chapa Mendoza, Virginia Janus-Benda, James Gilbert, Nancy Thayer and Deanna Sperka.

For information about Very Special Arts, call chairwoman Connie Lot at the FAR Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts in Birmingham at (810) 944-3347.

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LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

■ A look at what's in store at the fifth annual quilt show and sale of the Birmingham Area Quilters Coordinating Council and Center.

■ Marty Wigley's Garden Spot column.

■ Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAN DEAN

Super ceramics: Carolyn Joseph of West Bloomfield has fun making boxes, bowls and other pieces of her ceramic art, often using bright colors and vibrant patterns as shown in the lidded work below. Joseph will be one of the participants in the Westacres Artist Market Saturday

Her ceramics show cheer



West Bloomfield artist Carolyn Joseph likes her ceramic art to be fun, and it shows with the bright colors and patterns many of the works feature. The pieces are cheery as well as functional. Joseph is one of the artists taking part in the 26th annual Westacres Artist Market Saturday in West Bloomfield.

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

"This is where I live," Carolyn Joseph told a visitor as they entered the basement of her West Bloomfield home.

The bright room was filled with ceramic works and works-in-progress and molds and equipment. It's an artistic environment in which Joseph produces a variety of ceramic pieces, large and small, fun and functional.

"I really like ceramics. I really like to pull things apart and feel them," said Joseph, who has lived in West Bloomfield for about a year.

"I like shape and form. I love the manipulation of nothing, basically a lump of clay, into a shape or form."

Joseph is one of more than 60 artists featured in the 26th annual Westacres Artist Market, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 7, in West Bloomfield.

The mixed media, juried event will take place in the Westacres clubhouse, on the bluffs of Middle Straits Lake off Commerce, east of Union Lake Road and west of Orchard Lake Road. Admission is \$1.

"People refer to it as a 'gem of a show,'" said Jan Freeman, one of the publicists for the event. "It's not so unwieldy that it's beyond people. It's an approachable kind of thing in which you are able to chat with the artists and get to know some of them even."

Joseph is serious about her art but not somber. She likes it to be fun. Her pieces are functional but have a fanciful air, too, with their bright colors and patterns of squiggles and dots.

Bowls, plates and an assortment

See ARTIST, 6E

Gallery gets ready to welcome artists, visitors

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The world's largest and most artistic welcome sign will be out this month when Farmington Hills artist Edee Joppich opens her gallery in Northport on the Leelanau Peninsula.

The gallery is one big invitation to artists to exhibit their work, as well as to the public to explore the artistry in a beautiful environment.

Joppich's Bay Street Gallery will run its 15th season May 28 to the second weekend in October. Forty-five artists will display works in many media.

"I've covered many of the mediums and styles and direction that artists have," Joppich said.

"The common denominator for this year and every year is (the

artists) are all very opinionated."

This year will have a special feature: a one-week show before the official gallery opening. The exhibit, "Artists at Scott's Farm," will run May 14-21. Artists will attend its opening May 14. Call the gallery for information.

This show is the result of Joppich's painting seminars that took place in spring and fall 1993. The 45 artists attending the seminars worked on location at Scott's Farm, a 115-year-old farm north of Northport.

The gallery was designed by Joppich's husband, Ed, an architect with Giffels Hoyem Basco Inc. in Troy. Edee Joppich travels around Michigan, jurying art shows, lectur-

See JOPPICH'S, 6E



Paper power: Roland Poska's stunning paper works resemble tapestries. He is one of the artists featured this season in Joppich's Bay Street Gallery, the gallery run by Farmington Hills artist Edee Joppich on the Leelanau Peninsula.

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 (810) 644-1314.

BY DESIGN

Award-winning artist Karen Halpern of Bloomfield Hills will be a featured speaker at the free Resourceful Workshops Thursday, May 19, at the Michigan Design Center in Troy.

Halpern is president of Art Interior Systems at the MDC, which offers custom-designed paintings for homes and businesses. She will give a slide presentation "Your Perfect Solution."

Art Beat

Showcasing Your Interior with Custom-designed Art. Ten other workshops on other topics presented by exhibitors at the center will take place that day. Reservations are required by Friday, May 13. Call the MDC at (810) 649-4778 for information.

PREVIEW

The 1994 Student Exhibition at the Center for

Creative Studies in Detroit will feature more than 2,000 works of fine art, photography, decorative and functional objects, jewelry, apparel and furniture, as well as displays of graphic design, advertising, illustration, transportation design and industrial design. It will take place May 14-29 at CCS. Guests at the exhibit opening 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 13, will be able to view and buy the works of these emerging artists before the show opens to the general public. Admission to the opening is \$20 and includes wine, beer, hot hors d'oeuvres and live music. A special patron's reception will take place 6-8 p.m. that day; tickets are \$100. For information, call 872-9463 or 872-3118, Ext. 282.