

## CREATIVE LIVING

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## PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

Cranbrook exhibit  
offers views of state

Zoltan Sepešhy, president of the Cranbrook Academy of Art 1969-90, came to the United States from his native Hungary in 1921. He came to New York and then to Detroit, where he painted architectural renderings and perspectives for architect Albert Kahn.

Architecture is important in Sepešhy's Michigan: Paintings by Zoltan Sepešhy, an exhibit continuing through Oct. 30 at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, 1221 N. Woodward in Bloomfield Hills (call (810) 645-3312). The display includes rarely shown Detroit cityscapes on loan from Sanders/Country Home Bakery of Michigan.

Like steel girders running through even the most aesthetic skyscraper, realism runs through Sepešhy's art. He infuses his industrial and city scenes with grit as well as grace. A balance of forms and angles creates movement in them.

These are postcards that capture life as well as looks. Featured are downtown shop windows and bustling passersby. The back of a motor plant. Buildings seen from the Lodge Freeway. Cadillac Square.

Cranes and seagulls are included in harbor settings. Boats pass under the majestic Ambassador Bridge. The deck is the focus in "Ships That Pass." "Chrysler Plant (Change of Shift)" shows neon letters against the dark, and a softly lit streetcar. Soaring structures, and clouds and traffic that seem to be moving as counterparts, are presented in "City Canyon." "Center of Culture" shows a skyline with the main library and art museum.

The exhibit offers landscapes as well. Among these are snow-covered grounds and Belle Isle.

Sepešhy was born in 1898. He taught painting at the art school of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts, and was one of the initial faculty members in the painting department at Cranbrook when he joined the staff in 1931. Sepešhy became director of the art academy in 1946. As a painter he was known for his mastery of technical skills and won many awards. He retired in 1966 and died in Royal Oak in 1974.

## Shining talent

Another kind of craftsmanship is displayed through July 10 at the Duke Gallery, 312 W. Fourth in Royal Oak (call (810) 547-5511).

The gallery now represents Sprattling silver, reissues of original designs by William Sprattling (1900-1967). Sprattling, proclaimed by the Mexican government to be "the founding father of the Taxco school of silver," was a major force in the modern Mexican silver movement. Taxco is a small town in Mexico that prospered as a silver capital.

See PERSPECTIVES, 8D



R.H. Himmelfarb

"City Canyon": Zoltan Sepešhy, who was the second president of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, painted this Griswold scene in oil and gouache almost 50 years ago. It is one of the artist's works exhibited at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills.

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

■ Marty Figley's Garden Spot column.

■ Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.

Mix of  
media  
in show

Textiles by Birmingham artist Barbara Moon Boertzel are among the works featured in the current mixed media exhibit at the Sybaris Gallery in Royal Oak.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

Textiles and small metal sculpture have special strengths of their own in the current exhibit at the Sybaris Gallery, 202 E. Third in Royal Oak.

The mixed media display of textiles by Barbara Moon Boertzel of Birmingham and sculpture by Sarah Obrecht continues through July 16. Also featured are ceramic teapots by Harris Deller, Cindy Kolodziejki and Liz Quackenbush.

Boertzel's work suggests that it is in progress, part of something the viewer could complete or watch develop in his or her mind. She communicates through paper and cloth, stitching markings onto material that is tea-stained or dyed. Many of the markings are circular and are contained in squares, resembling dividing cells. Because of the stitching, with its broken lines, the circles are open at the same time they are closed.

Threads in some works have vary-

ing shades, dark and light, as they make tiny patterns that are arranged in segments and are slightly altered. The result is a rhythmic, meditative piece. "Growth" is an assortment of dark and light ovals, overlapping in a way that suggests flowers or oblong bubbles.

Other pieces, gouache on hand-made paper, feature dots and squares. One with these designs resembles a map. Others are smaller sections with the designs on parts of them, like primitive patterns.

"Lines of the Hand" consists of strips of tea-stained cotton organza, handmade Japanese paper and dyed cotton thread. The strips consist of segments, each with a stitched circle in the center. "Flowing Like Water" is draped softly, with some parts

loose from the background. Even when the material is dark and the patterns made in white thread, the effect is as meditative and soft as when the material is gently colored with the tea stain. Circles are of varying widths, which creates a subtle rhythm.

The artist studied painting and arts education at the Corcoran School of Art and George Washington University, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in 1968. She moved to Guam in 1972 and finished work on a master of arts degree in painting and printmaking at the University of Guam in 1980. Boertzel studied at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills and received a master of fine arts degree in fiber in 1991.

Obrecht's works resemble sea creatures. They are made of copper, or copper and rubber, and are designed to be shaken. "Coral Urchins" consists of thin segments in a circle. Obrecht received a master of fine arts degree from Arizona State University in 1993.

The teapots have a lot brewing with their designs. Teapots by Deller, who graduated from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, consist of white porcelain with scratches and lines over the surface. They look almost flat. Spouts are "aggressive" (sticking straight out, almost defiantly) or "passive" (curving like a lazy S).

Kolodziejki makes elegant teapots out of objects found in a junk

See EXHIBIT, 10D

Daylilies to have  
their day in eventBY MARTY FIGLEY  
STAFF WRITER

Mr. Daylily, also known as Harris Olson of Birmingham, has spent many years growing these flowers.

I spent a delightful afternoon with Olson in the gardens of the Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, the site of the annual Daylily show, Saturday, July 16.

Admission is free. Judging begins at 10 a.m. and takes several hours. "Don't come before 1 p.m. - except by that time all the daylilies for sale will be picked over," Olson said.

Many varieties of daylilies grow in the gardens and with the recent warm weather will be at the peak of bloom.

You will probably see several of Olson's hybrids, among them his "Ruth Olson," recognizable out of 32,000 daylilies, with its ruffled and sort of brown color. "In 1985, during a national convention, he said he 'gave away 50 on the buses; there are lots of blooms in a clump.'"

## Membership

In order to host an official daylily show, a certain number of local members must be national members, so it's necessary to become a national member the first year you join. After that, national membership is optional.

Dues for the first year are \$18, and after that, \$8 to continue the

membership. New members join the American Hemerocallis Society as well as the Southern Michigan Hemerocallis Society.

Olson said they have found that many members want to continue their national membership because they get four nice journals a year about growing daylilies. For additional information, call Jourgen Kasprick at (313) 624-2092.

Flowers alone are judged at the show. Four flowers on one scape (stem) must be blooming at the same time. There are two main categories. The same variety of class is on all the different colors, sizes and shapes. The other judging is for unnamed varieties.

Members of the SMHS come from as far away as Bay City for the show. Other members live in Livonia, Redford, Farmington, Troy, Birmingham, Rochester, Rochester Hills and Bloomfield Hills.

## High on hybridizing

Olson and member Rich Surmont of Detroit agree that the reason hybridizing daylilies is so exciting is that you don't know what is going to happen each day.

"When you have 5,000 new seedlings, there's sure to be something opening every day that's different and interesting," Olson said. "It's really easy to do, and it's a lot

See DAYLILIES, 10D



MARTY FIGLEY

Getting ready: Betty Sterley of Beverly Hills and Harris Olson of Birmingham get ready for the annual Daylily Show at the Congregational Church of Birmingham in Bloomfield Hills.

Arts 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.

## WATERCOLOR WONDERS

A watercolor/pastel exhibit by award-winning Birmingham artist Fran Nicolson continues to July 17 in the main gallery of the Shawnae Arts Center in Owosso (call (517) 722-8354). Nicolson's colorful garden flower series contrasts with extraordinary composition, design and beauty. Her masterful still life and landscape paintings capture attention and appeal to senses. Nicolson's work is in many prestigious collections, including that of the Kresge Foundation. She is affiliated with many Michigan galleries, including the Cranbrook Academy of

## Art Beat

Art Museum, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, Detroit Institute of Arts, Saper Gallery in East Lansing, Lansing Art Gallery and Ann Arbor Art Association.

In the upper gallery to July 17 is a show by printmaker William Stolpin, who studied under internationally known lithographers Emil Wodjick and Robert Nelson. He also studied at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, University of Michigan-Flint and many other institutions. He has two prints in the permanent collection of the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

## PRINTS CHARMING

Stewart & Stewart, 5571 Wing Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills, is now a member of the International Fine Print Dealers Association. The printer and publisher of fine art prints since 1980 also announces three new releases by Richard Bosman and Janet Fish and five new releases by Chicago artist John Himmelfarb. Call (810) 628-5248.

Bosman, an Australian artist known for his neo-expressionist landscapes, has created two new screenprints, "Shore Line" and "Landfall." Fish, an American artist known for her energetic still life, has completed her newest screenprint, "A.M." Himmelfarb's "Note of Appeal," "Short Order," "Fax Appeal," "First Draft" and "White Out" continue his playful exploration of letterforms and their changing meaning in our culture.