

ART ON THE EDGE



BILL HANSEN

Mixing metals: Judith Fitzpatrick brings fine jewelry with geometric and architectural influences to the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair July 20-23.

Ann Arbor fairs draw top talent

What's hot in the world of art? Find out at the festival filled with fun, music, entertainment, and of course art.

The Ann Arbor Art Fairs roll in Wednesday through Saturday, July 20-23, offering nearly 1,000 exhibitors working in an array of mediums from painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramic and print-making to photography, glass, metal, jewelry, mixed media, wood and fiber.

If you're into one-of-a-kind clothing you'll find plenty of hand spun, woven and painted wearables at the four-day art extravaganza drawing 500,000 visitors annually.

The fair is actually three separate fairs in one — the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, State Street Art Fair, and Summer Art Fair sponsored by the Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans.

The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair is known to select those artists, emerging as well as established, on the cutting edge," said Susan Froelich, coordinator.

Judith Fitzpatrick specializes in fine jewelry with an elegant edge. Mixing metals and semi-precious stones, the Bloomfield Hills jeweler designs and crafts contemporary rings, earrings and pins with geometric and architectural influences. She brings her work to Booth No. A189 on East University at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, now celebrating its 35th year.

Out of 22 jewellers in the fair, Judith is the only one from Michigan. That in itself speaks very highly of her work," Froelich said. "Her rings are very unusual in shape, asymmetrical. It's a very clean, contemporary perspective."

Fitzpatrick, who does wholesale and retail jewelry shows around the country, works primarily in 14K and 18K gold as well as sterling silver to craft limited production pieces. For those who desire something that's customized, she creates work in all of the above metals plus 22K gold and platinum.

Mixing metals is the wave of the future, said Fitzpatrick who frequently combines gold and silver in the same pieces of jewelry. Consumers have grown tired of rigid standard forbidding the wearing of silver and gold together.

"Today, people are more interested in two metals, different combinations of metals. Colored gemstones have been gaining in popularity all along."

With an eye to the future, Fitzpatrick's latest series of conforming rings allow the wearer to mix, match and stack rings with simple, but elegant lines. A popular seller is her matching wedding rings.

"There's a lot of couples out there getting married and they're looking for something out of the ordinary, something that says they're love is special."

Fitzpatrick's customers buy more yellow gold than white. Rings and earrings are her most popular sellers. When designing a piece, she takes into consideration all of these elements along with what the market will bear. What trends, if any, does she see in future jewelry sales?

"People are more oriented to yellow gold, but it's an individual preference," she said. "In general, people don't invest a lot of money in fashion trends. They want a piece of jewelry that's somewhat timeless."

Fitzpatrick's designs reveal a quiet elegance. For

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Parrotheads go crazy for Buffett

■ Jimmy Buffett's coming to Pine Knob and that means the venue will be packed with manic fans who are brightly dressed and sometimes costumed. The Parrotheads are coming.

BY KYLE GREEN
SPECIAL WRITER

■ Going to a Jimmy Buffett concert isn't as easy as buying a ticket. It takes a tropical wardrobe and spirit.

The brightly dressed fans make his shows a spectacle with their brightly colored wear, plastic lab coats, shark-finned hats and flying beach balls. They clap their hands over their heads in the form of a shark fin during Buffett's song "Fin."

Marlene Buffa will decorate her car to make sure that Buffett fans know how serious she is about her admiration for the singer. Along with being the Midwest Tropical Appreciation Society/Detroit Parrothead Club president, she's also a fan. Her car will bear filters and posters complete with tear-off information about her club while she does the group's T-shirt to help advertise it. The organization's banner will be flying above several other member's cars.

Club member Paul Saloko of Sterling Heights has found no better way to honor his musical hero than to dress up as a human volcano, modeled after the Buffett song by the same name. The costume, which consumed 5 1/2 feet of his 5-foot 8-inch body, was constructed from cardboard and was complete with flowing lava made from plaster mold compound, he said.

"More than likely, I will wear it to the concert. When Buffett comes to town, you know you can go crazy for awhile," Saloko said.

This fun-loving spirit doesn't end with Buffett's shows, however. In the case of Buffa and the 165 members of her group, Buffett's fun-loving spirit is celebrated year-round.

"We like the way his music makes us feel. It's pure escapism and fanaticism and it's fun," said Buffa,



Do!n' 'The Fin': Next week is a big week for the Midwest Tropical Appreciation Society/Detroit Parrothead Club, founded by Marlene Buffa of Detroit. Jimmy Buffett plays two sold-out shows at Pine Knob Music Theatre in Independence Township on Tuesday, July 19, and Wednesday, July 20.

whose resemblance to the singer's name is purely coincidental. Buffett's shows, which come to Pine Knob Music Theatre in Independence Township July 19-20, are so important to his fans that they have been known to schedule events around Buffett's shows. Buffa, for example, scheduled her wedding to John Schwendler of Phoenix a month before Buffett's shows so as not to interfere.

The appreciation society is one of 28 Buffett fan organizations scattered around North America and one of two in Michigan. (Buffa, former president of MENSA, sure has appreciated Buffett. She has only missed one of his shows since 1979.) She said her group has a different twist to it. Buffett is known for focusing attention on ecological awareness, but the local organization is more socially conscious.

In less than two years of its existence the Appreciation Society has donated canned food and raised \$1,200 for the Gleaners Food Bank through fund-raisers.

Member Tom Wikol of Birmingham said being a Parrothead has allowed him to grow socially.

"It makes you a more well-rounded person not only personally, but socially because you can be around so many people young and old," said Wikol who is a member along with his wife Debbie.

For fun the organization has monthly beach parties at Carlos Murphy's restaurant in Southfield and other locations in Southeastern Michigan. The social focus is what persuaded David McDade of Flint to join the organization.

"I think I joined because of Buffett's music, but Buffett is active in the community it comes out in a group," said McDade, the club's 30-year-old vice president.

Despite that, it's the music that's drawn the group together. Buffett is known for his easy-going calypso/reggae-based storytelling about simple topics such as drinking a blended tequila cocktail ("Margarita-ville"), eating America's most popular tailgating cuisine ("Cheeseburger in Paradise") and one of the most unpopular days of the week ("Come Monday").

"I like the song," explains Highland resident Judy Culbertson, 49. "His songs tell stories. It's not the stuff you can't understand. It's good music."

As for Buffett's new album "Fruit Cake," Buffa views the 23rd release as a mix of the past re-packaged for today.

"It's more of a mixture of styles," said Buffa who bought "Fruit Cake" a few days after it was released.

"Some stuff on this one sounds like old Buffett, some sounds like new Buffett and some stuff sounds like

'80s Buffett."

"Old Buffett tends to be more acoustic and mid-'80s Buffett tends to be more electric. The new Buffett sounds like he has a 50-piece band even though he doesn't, but it sounds more calypso."

The Appreciation Society's Parrotheads are scattered throughout the state with the largest population centered in the metro Detroit area. Membership also extends into Ohio, California, Arizona and Wisconsin and southern Ontario, Canada, with ages ranging from pre-teen to 60.

"It's unusual for one genre for music to attract such an age span. Most (musical) groups focus on one span of the music market. (Buffett) never intended to be a family show, he's said over and over," said Buffa, who also operates her own tailor-made Hawaiian shirt business called Tropical Tailor.

"All I want is for people to have fun and good clean fun and enjoy themselves and if we can help others in the process that's great."

Jimmy Buffett performs two sold-out shows Tuesday, July 19, and Wednesday, July 20, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. For more information, call (810) 377-0100. To contact the Midwest Tropical Appreciation Society/Detroit Parrothead club, call (800) 618-3644.

STREET SOUNDS

"Platinum on Black" various artists

During the past few years, house music as an art form has evolved from its beginning basic synthetic keyboard notes and drum machine-programmed pounding into what can be referred to today as possibly a state of being.

"Platinum on Black" (Mf, 1993) expresses this musical essence by not only compiling the latest European dance hits, but providing substantial evidence of a musical evolution.

The 14-track compilation straddles a fine line between what can be referred to as cutting edge and possibly monotonous and on the other side providing energetic and fun house music. Each song is appealing in its own dance club ways starting with the gospel grunting "Love, Peace & Happiness" by Soul Solution, the frenzied marching band symphony of "The Goodmen" by "Give It Up" and the delicious jerky remix of Gabrielle's "Dreams."

More compelling re-mixes of club veterans Utah Saints ("What Can



You Do For Me" and New Order ("World") are more confusing and much harsher than the original non-dance-club remix versions.

"Platinum on Black" represents a wide perspective of musical energy, names and aspects under one solid title and is pushed to its limits with action and strength.

Unfortunately, this release is neither substantial nor compelling, but is jammed packed with empty calories. When you get right down to it, who cares.

—Kyle Green

"Vauxhall and I" Morrissey

Performers are easy targets for scrutiny and Steven Patrick Morrissey shouldn't be naive to this. Since the beginning of his career, the former frontman for the 1980s post-punk band The Smiths has been the focus of allegations about his band's break up, his sexual orientation, and his non-enthusiastic outlook of life — just to name a few.

Now with the release of his fifth solo album, "Vauxhall and I," (Sire Records, 1994) Morrissey states that exactly is on his mind and in essence slaps listeners in the face with his fearful charm.

In the past, Morrissey has demanded that critics examine his works and allow it to stand alone. This time around he exposes more of his thoughts and morbid sense of humor through his typical storytelling-mannered lyrics placed over mid-tempo acoustic arrangements.

In previous releases his royal depression-cas had a way of keeping listeners' attention with creative phrases, but as soon as you think you comprehend his unusual realm of reality,

he hits with an obscure idea thrusting followers into dated confusion. In "Am Hatred For Loving," Morrissey explains, "I am hated for loving, anonymous cat, poison pen, brick in the small of the back again, I still don't belong to anyone — I am mine. I am hated for loving, I am haunted for wanting..."

Now who exactly should feel sorry for him? He professes a no-holds barred policy of desire toward an unknown loved one by demanding, "... I am now a central part of your mind's landscape whether you care or not. Yeah, I've made up your mind..." In his recent hit single "The More You Ignore Me, the Closer I Get," clever lyrics for someone who demands he has never loved before.

In "Hold On To Your Friends" Morrissey takes a stab at self-rationalization by expressing, "... But now you only call me when you're feeling depressed, when you feel happy I'm so far from your mind, my patience is stretched, my loyalty vested... just bear in mind; there just might come a time when you need some friends." Perhaps that lends some insight into "the real" Morrissey?

—Kyle Green

IN CONCERT

Information on limited engagements only should be submitted two weeks in advance to: Christina Fuoco, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or by fax at (313) 581-7279. To ensure publication, the venues' addresses and phone numbers with area codes must be included.

Monday, July 11

Capri's, 31736 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (313) 261-2430
Capri's, 31736 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (313) 261-2430
Brendy, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (313) 995-8505

Tuesday, July 12
Brendy, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (313) 995-8505

Wednesday, July 13
Brendy, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (313) 995-8505

Thursday, July 14
Brendy, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (313) 995-8505

THE EARLES
With Melissa Etheridge at Tiger Stadium, Detroit, (313) 961-4417

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With Melissa Etheridge at Tiger Stadium, Detroit, (313) 961-4417

FLAME ALLISON
The Ark, 63715 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, (313) 781-1451

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