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the New York artist said. "I liked it."

Fazzino's view of a New York neighborhood features bagels, pickles and fish walking down a bustling street, filled with narrow buildings that house different offices and businesses. The World Trade Center towers stand in the horizon.

A circus, a soccer game and doctors' offices are among his other subjects, all almost literally jumping with color. Such cartoon royalty as the Flintstones, the Jetsons, Olive Oyl and Betty

Boop have been the focus of Fazzino's works as well.

When Fazzino does a serigraph of a city, he likes to include such features as its restaurants, notable places and entertainment.

"I want to see what the city is known for."

Fazzino's outdoor scenes include hot air balloons, and sometimes zeppelins. They are cheerily decorated, and may carry messages. The artist puts them in for color and to help balance a work.

"I'm scared of hot air balloons, to tell you the truth. I find that

the pieces artistically are sort of bottom-heavy."

Fazzino's art takes many forms, such as books and sculptures. He has made, or is making, artistic contributions to benefit Special Olympics, the Make-a-Wish Foundation and Very Special Arts, among other organizations.

Celebrities own some of Fazzino's pieces. He made a work of the Lincoln Center for Luciano Pavarotti, and one of the Special Olympics for Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Brooks Shields likes Broad-

way," Fazzino said of his art made for the actress.

The artist talked with gallery owner Peleg about what place should be donated to benefit the Wallace Network.

"A TV place would be a fabulous choice," he said. "A lot of people at home with AIDS... find themselves sitting in front of the TV."

The style Fazzino developed has a touch of the paper-folding art of origami.

He first makes an original painting, which is then printed and cut by hand. Each work is one of a kind, as the pieces are raised, cut and folded differently to make the three-dimensional effect. A special, non-acid glue that won't burn the prints is used. Glitter is sometimes added for a subtle shimmering effect.

Fazzino's interest in art began with a Junior Achievement project that involved making collages.

"I decided to use the same method of cutting and gluing."

He later studied at the Parson's School of Design and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree at the School of Visual Arts.

As a street artist in the late 1970s, Fazzino depicted diverse neighborhoods and yearly events of his native New York City. He became interested in presenting other cities from around the country.

Miraculous

The images come across the centuries, as soft as a whisper but as strong as an embrace.

They are simple prayers, in often simple depictions. But they touch the viewer's soul with their expressive signs of faith and devotion.

They are part of "Miracles of Mexican Folk Art: Retablos and Ex-votos," an exhibit of rare 18th and 19th century religious folk paintings at the Creative Arts Center, 47 Williams in Pontiac (call (810) 333-7849). The show is one of three continuing to Oct. 21 as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Two other related displays are: "Through Their Eyes: Visions of Life," photos by southwest Detroit Hispanic youth, a project conceived by Carlos Diaz, a local artist who teaches at the Center for Creative Studies; and "Works from Confetti Camp: A Celebration of Difference," works by children in a multicultural arts program.

A retablo is an oil painting, usually on tin, of a Christian deity or saint. Untrained artists from the provinces of Mexico painted the works. The making of retablos flourished briefly, then vanished.

Each religious figure had specific divine powers associated with it. People commissioned or bought retablos for devotional or aesthetic reasons. They placed pieces on home altars and prayed to them.

An ex-voto is like a retablo, except ex-votos are more specific, and include more characters, and are painted today in rural parts of Mexico.

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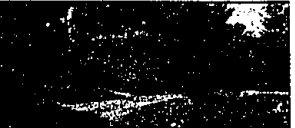
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