## Exhibitions touch spirit in special ways

The images come across the enturies, as soft as a whisper but a strong as an embrace. They are simple prayers, in often simple depictions. But they outh the viewer's soul with their apressive signs of faith and devo-

expressive signs of faith and devo-tion.
They are part of "Miracles of Mexican Folk Art: Retables and Ex-votos," an exhibit of rare 18th and 19th century religious folk palantings at the Creative Arts Center, 47 Williams in Pontius (call (30) 333-7849). The show is one of three continuing to Oct. 21 as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.
Two other related displays are

as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Two other related displays are Through Their Eyes: Visions of Life, "photos by southwest Detroit Hispanic youths, 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 and specific divine powers associated with it. People commissioned or bought retablos for devotional or estibitic reasons. They placed pieces on home altars and prayed to them.

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. The work tells of a miracle that took place or a blessing
that was received. It was painted
out of gratitude.

When is a second-

that was received a survey out of gratitude.
What is touching about the retablos and ervotos, besides the written prayers of gratitude, are the way many of the religious figures are presented. They may have wise and gentle expressions. Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners, wraps part of her clock around a child, whose little hand graps her thumb. Some figures are alone

imals and praying figures.
Angelle art
"Be not forgetful to entertain
reart in the property of the property of

that can be bought by calling AlM at (313) 863-5700.

The featured angels appeared with wins or in other ways—sometimes shining with innocence and serenity. It was an upliffing show, conveying compassion and comfort.

Works by a mother and daughter were awarded "Best of Show" and first prize respectively. Elaine Redmond's Best of Show photo, "Angel of the '90s," features a wrapped statue. Eve Redmond's first-prize winner, "Littlest Angel," is a mixed media collage in which a spoon, halo and wings form an image of an angel.

Sergio DeGiusti was awarded second prize for his photo of his bronze angel aculpture. He received an honorable mention for his photo of a grieving statue in

received an honorable mention for his photo of a grieving statue in Milan, Italy.

Third prize went to Bridget Keil for her watercolor painting. "Some People Believe in Angels," in which a cartoon figure gazes at

the stars.

Other honorable mentions went to Carl Demeulensere, for his

B PERSPECTIVES
in portraits, others are part of a scene.

Frames provide interest, too. Some are like little houses, for her bright acrylic painting with pold leaf and wood; Gabrielle Meaney, for her bright acrylic painting with the provide interest, too. Some are like little houses, sheltering the image, others feature tiny, charm-like pieces of an imals and praying figures.

Angelle art

"Bestrothed," an acrylic painting with place and wood; Gabrielle Meaney, for her bright acrylic place and charge." a soldy colored, acrylic place and charge and charge and charge and charge and charge and charge and place and charge and place and place

works in advertising, came up with the exhibit. He sent out a call for entries by artists. Interest was so strong that another show

was so arrong that another show is being planned for next year. "Every religion has an angel. Every religion has a messenger," he said in explaining the angel

theme.

"(Angels) are light enough and

"(Angels) are man shape mough."

The exhibit has been very well received, VanderEyk said.
"It's a safe way for a lot of people to get involved."

Inspirational imagery

of Polish heritage, including mushing in etchings by Joan Bobliz, which are no display this month in the Arlund Room at the Congregational Church of Birming-ham, 1000 Cranbrook Road at Woodward in Bloomfield Hills (Call (810) 646-4511). Quotes from the Bible are around the frame of the work. The message is expressed in images that are etched or impressed into the paper.

A spider web takes on the majesty of stained glass. The happiness on such figures as an angel among cowering shephenis and the women leaving the tomb from where Christ had risen radiates fifthe paper.

"Ask, Seek, Knock" shows many doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway; it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway it gives a sense of a never-ending somany doors and a stainway and continue to take a leading role in looking into take a leading role in looking into take a leading role in looking into take a leading role

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circle, suggesting a continual growth and regrowth, birth and bibooming.

Many works have a present-day look — shoes on a shelf, U.B. coins. A jignaw purale illustrates the quote, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." An arrangement of coins and ice cream conce illustrates "for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Bohlig was born in Wisconsin and lives in Minnesota. Her work has been exhibited in G2 one-person shows in the United States and Europe. She was the featured artist for the 1994 liturgical caleria and Europe. She was the featured artist for the 1994 liturgical caleria for the 1994 liturgical caleria for though Oct. 20 at the Galleria of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake (call (810) 633-0345).

The FFR a sponsors the competition to provide an opportunity for Michigan artists of any level, Foliah by descent or marriage, and mark coverlet. Texture as well as color makes aubtle difference in many instance in medium and mixture of style, and from there turned to style, and from there turned to a style, and from there turned to a style, and from there turned to a style, and from there turned to 23.

Leading role

The Cultural Council of Bir-

stances. Textured wallpaper in one bathroom is charceal with light-catching flecks. White grantite covers some pieces.

Walls are bars, or feature art, works that fill much of their surface. Oriental rugs are found to throughout.

throughout.
"I like an Oriental rig... bit?
brings out warmth and drama."
Unusual furniture makes an! impact. For example, the modelfor the coffee table in the den was:in the Museum of Modern Art in:\
New York. Called "Domino," the c'
piece resembles a large black; a
cube. Sections open to make different looks.

"Some jobs are work. This was"."
fun. It was really a labor of love,"
Schefman said of the three-month

"Everything came together so beautifully."

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Peatured artists come from all over Michigan, including Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield, Bloomfield, Hills, Elionfield Township, Farmington, Farmington, Hills, Eake Orion, Lathrup Village, Rechester Hills, Southfield, Troy, West Bloomfield, Canton, Livenia and Redford.

nla and Rodford.

A student art exhibit continues to Oct. 14. Students from 38 parochial, private and public schools in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area are participating. Award-winning work by the young artists will be displayed at Our Town, and remaining pieces will be shown in downtown Birmingham store windows and the Franklin Bank lobby later this month.

Reservations are needed for special events. Call the special events department at The Community House, (810) 644-5832. The events are:

M Gale preview, 7-9 p.m. Wedness to day, Oct. 19. Berins at 6 p.m. for y Benefactors. Cocktails, horse decures, picnic dinner baskets; and a coffee bar will be featured. Cock per person is \$176 for Benefactors, \$100 for Friends.

■ Professional Women's Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20. who was instrumental in organiz-ing the first Our Town exhibit, will speak on "Seeing the World Through the Heart of an Artist." Cost is \$5.

E Luncheon, noon Thursday, Oct. 20. Internationally known photo-grapher Balthazar Korab will speak on "Our Town Through the Lens of a Photographer." Cost is, \$20.

M Art and Jazz V, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21. Art and Jazz V will stage a party complete with hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, door prizes and live jazz. Cost is \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door.

Artists' reception and awards' ceremony, 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct.
 Admission is free.



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For a private showing, please

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