



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Setting pretty: Interior designers Janet Aronoff of Bloomfield Hills and Jane Schulak of Birmingham arranged a warm tea party setting, to be seen at the Birmingham Antiques Festival. The setting includes Beleck china and English Georgian silver candlesticks.

Antiques

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"We thought tea would be fun," Aronoff said. The stately yet warm arrangement shows that antiques can bring a fresh look to a table setting. It includes items from Aronoff's mother: Irish Beleck china and four English Georgian silver candlesticks. Also featured are English fruit knives and forks, a Victorian English flower bowl and a 1920s Cartier silver pitcher. The bowl, with a delicate cross pattern on the side, is a way to present floral color without blocking the view.

This is just one of the settings that will be on view this year at the fifth Birmingham Antiques Festival. All of the tables were decorated with antiques by area residents. Among their themes will be a bride's maid's luncheon and Napoleon style items. The tables are special features of lectures by author and antiques dealer Sheila Chetoff taking place at a noon luncheon and at 7:30 p.m. wine tasting and dessert Monday, March 27.

The other decorators include Bob Benkert of the Polo Shop for Men, Misale Christie of Magnolia, Kathy O'Connell of Bloomfield Hills and Shelley Barr of Birmingham.

Forty dealers from 14 states will exhibit their antiques at the show at 380 S. Bates. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, March 31, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 1, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 2. Admission is \$6. For more information, call the Special Events Department at (810) 644-5832.

The festival will feature three other lectures: "Sewing Tools and

Samplers," "Country French Faience Part II — Quimper Modern Movement" and "Jade." Each of these talks is \$15 and includes a continental breakfast and admission to the show. (See related story.)

A preview party with a silent auction will take place Thursday, March 30. The party will begin 6 p.m. for Benefactors (\$50) and 7 p.m. for Sponsors (\$30).

A garden shoppe with garden accessories and gift items will be open during show hours on the lower level of The Community House. The Bates Street Cafe also will be open during show

hours on the lower level and will serve light meals.

Chetoff is the owner of The Country Dining Room Antiques in the Berkshires, Mass. Her book "Antiques for the Table" is a reference guide to antiques for dining photographed in famous historical Berkshire settings. It presents important examples of 18th, 19th and 20th century china, glass and silver.

Chetoff's talks will highlight the fine points, etiquette and details that make the settings unusual and visually appealing, using affordable and collectible antiques. She draws on her experi-

ence as a former fashion journalist and consultant when creating one-of-a-kind, stylish table settings.

Tickets are \$35 for the luncheon and \$25 for the wine and dessert. They can be ordered by mailing a check to The Community House, Attention: Special Events, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009, or by phone using a MasterCard or Visa. Call the Special Events Department at (810) 644-5832 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

All proceeds benefit The Community House.

Lectures study antiques

A series of three lectures will be given during the Birmingham Antiques Festival at The Community House in Birmingham.

Tickets are \$15 per person, per lecture, and include a continental breakfast as well as a general admission ticket to the Antiques Festival for the same day. They can be ordered by mailing a check to The Community House, Attention: Special Events, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009. Tickets will be mailed. For more information, call The Community House at (810) 644-5832.

"Sewing Tools and Samplers" by Debbie Schaffer of Raleigh-Schaffer in Lebanon, Ohio (phone 513) 294-1902), will be the first lecture, presented 9 a.m. Friday, March 31.

Schaffer will speak on sewing

and knitting tools from the 15th through 19th centuries.

"Before mass production in the mid-19th century, needles and other tools were individually made and were more valuable to women than their jewelry. It was traumatic to lose these items so they needed safe places to put them. Eventually sewing cases became more elaborate and expensive than the tools kept in them."

"Country French Faience, Part II — Quimper Modern Movement" by Blake Kemper of Solomon Suchard Antiques in Shaker Heights, Ohio (phone 216) 752-0246), will be presented 9 a.m. Saturday, April 1.

Last year Kemper spoke on Country French pottery (faience) from Quimper, a town in Brita-

ny. This year he will discuss pottery from other regions in France. Because these artists were competing with those from Quimper and tried to copy the Quimper style, it is difficult to distinguish one region's pottery from the other. Kemper will bring in a few rare pieces from Mallowcom to demonstrate this confusion. Then he will discuss the "modern movement" that lasted from the 1920s to the 1940s. French pottery from this period is characterized by bold colors and an art deco look.

"These pieces are getting expensive but there's still time to get excellent buys."

"Jade" by David Weiss of Weiss Antiques, 800 N. Woodward in Birmingham (phone 810) 646-2840), will be given 11 a.m. Sunday, April 2.

OPENING EXHIBITIONS

This is a listing of gallery exhibit openings and openings and other art-related events taking place this week. Continuing shows that have already begun, and galleries that regularly have exhibits, are listed in the Observer and Eclectic newspapers Monday. Send announcements of Oakland County art gallery exhibitions to: Mary Klemic, Creative Living Editor, Observer & Eclectic Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009; fax (810) 644-1314.

THIRD THURSDAY Thursday, March 16 — The Royal Oak Gallery Association continues "Third Thursday" free gallery walks in downtown Royal Oak, 5-9 p.m. Thursday. Participating galleries include the Ariana Gallery, the Bunting Gallery, the Carol/James Gallery, the Deborah Roberts Design Room, Douglas, the Duke Gallery and Lyle. This month's walk features "Native American Arts and Crafts" at the Andy Sharkey Gallery and "Recent Works by Jane Lecky" and "Wine Presented by The Wine Company" at the Sybilla Gallery. In the latter event at the Sybilla Gallery, six French

wines will be presented for tasting and Royal Oak wine merchant Elie Boudet will enlighten visitors to the "FOT" factor, a more accurate way to categorize wine. For more information, call Ann Duke at (810) 547-5511.

JANICE CHARACH EPSTEIN MUSEUM/GALLERY Thursday, March 16 — The fourth annual Emerging Artists exhibit and sale will continue through April 20. Opening reception to meet the artists 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday. The display showcases a variety of work — from photographs to glass, painting and fibers — by 13 artists who are at or near the beginning of their careers. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. In the Jewish Community Center at 6500 W. Maple at Drake in West Bloomfield, (810) 661-7641.

REVOLUTION: A GALLERY PROJECT Thursday, March 16 — Three exhibits continue to April 16 at 23257 Woodward in Ferndale: one of recent work by Steve Currie, "On Paper" by Thomas Norzowski and Julia Fish and "23257: 312 Days Later," an installation by Jim Melchert and Tony Hepburn. Informal gallery talk 7 p.m. Thursday. Call (810) 541-3444.

ALEXIA LEE GALLERY Thursday, March 16 — "The Offering Series," an exhibit of new paintings by Jennifer Reeves, who grew up in Birmingham, will continue through April 22. Opening reception for the artist 5-8 p.m. Thursday. In conjunction with the exhibit, the gallery is releasing its first published book, "Public Art in Ann Arbor and Westchester County" by Martha Keller and edited by John Hilton

and Paula Shank; pre-book signing reception to meet the writer 7-7:30 p.m. Thursday at the gallery, book signing 7:30 p.m. at Borders on Liberty Street in Ann Arbor. Reeves' abstract paintings convey a timeless, "When I am working I try to make the invisible visible and to be unabashedly honest about it," she said. "To me, my paintings are prayers — yearnings for a deeper understanding of what is and for a more spacious world." Hours 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment, 201 Nickels Arcade, Ann Arbor, (313) 663-8800.

DETROIT ARTISTS MARKET Friday, March 17 — "In/Justice," an exhibit of progressive political visions by Michigan and Essex County, Ontario, artists, continues to April 14. Opening reception, at which artist L.D. Smith will do a performance work titled "Flower Girl," 5-8 p.m. Friday. The performance will be on video with other video works in the show. Artist and independent video producer Carol Jacobson, who joined the exhibit, will present a free brown bag lecture with several of the artists 12:15-1 p.m. Thursday, March 23. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 300 River Place, Suite 1650, on Joseph Campau, Detroit, (313) 393-1770.

MASK GALLERY Friday, March 17 — "Sacred and Profane," featuring work in traditional and alternative photographic media by Jack Summers and Edward Carmody, will continue through April 14. Opening reception 5-9 p.m. Friday. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Saturday or by appointment, 10338 Joseph Campau at Canfield, above Kings 2, Eastland in Hamtramck, (810) 765-3048 or (313) 882-2463.

ARIANA GALLERY Saturday, March 18 — "From Hand to Mouth," an exhibit of cups and mugs by 52 American and Canadian artists, continues to March 18 at 119 S. Main in Royal Oak. Educational coffee seminar and tasting by Elliot Lewkow, "The Cappuccino Man," 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call (810) 546-8810.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER Sunday, March 19 — An exhibit of sculpture, jewelry and other works by sculptor Frank Meisler will continue to March 27 in the Hamburger Exhibition Hall at the center, 6600 W. Maple at Drake in West Bloomfield. Opening reception 1 p.m. Sunday. This is the distributor's last U.S. showing. Call (810) 661-7634.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS Saturday, March 18 — A film, "Plunder," will be shown 2 p.m. in the Holley Room at 5200 Woodward. The 60-minute documentary traces the illegal trade of pre-Columbian art and explores who should own and protect the art of the past. Call (313) 833-7900.

THE ART CENTER Sunday, March 19 — The 1995 All-Macomb County Student Art Exhibit will continue through March 31, featuring works by students in grades K-6. Opening reception 1-3 p.m. Sunday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, (810) 469-8666.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS Sunday, March 19 — A lecture, "Children of Sipan: Native Americans Today," will take place 2 p.m. in Lecture Hall at 5200 Woodward. Call (313) 833-7900.

and brass table lamp that looks crumpled. "Mood Lamp" by Greg Hanson is steel and acrylic, wavy legs supporting a square body bearing cut out designs of faces. "Candle Light" by Jeff Mylne looks like thick, illuminated candles.

On the larger side is a sconce by Aku Lahti. Made of steel and glass, the light with its steel "tendrils" filling the wall resembles a sea creature or insect. A steel and acrylic chandelier by John Baird arranges squares of light in a cross formation.

"Sacred and Profane"

The portraits in "Sacred and Profane," Detroit artist Thomas Humes' current exhibit of paintings and drawings at the Bunting Gallery in Royal Oak, set the stage for portrayals of the human condition. The works have few props. They probe personal dreams and deterioration.

Although the figures are without a motive, they soon take for themselves a personality, and become the central character within their own dramatic presentation. They are silent actors," Humes said.

When painting, Humes starts with the outside frame and works in. Sometimes he works with the frame so it looks aged or worn. Within the borders, he paints over and over as he changes the subject matter.

Gruau

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opening of the exhibit last Thursday. He works in France (where he lives), Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

The artist responded to a question asking where he got his inspiration by tapping the side of his head.

"I always use a live model. I take many sketches, try to get an idea for the style... It's very elaborate work even if it looks easy," he said.

Many of Gruau's works use few colors but those that are strong. Sometimes a hue will flash across a black background like broad lightning. Sometimes a door fills the surface, revealing part of the back of a naked man in a narrow rectangle on the side or a dainty foot peeking out in the center.

In one work, a giant gold bow stretches across the surface to adorn a shimmering gown, conveying the excitement of a bustling city at night. In another place, a woman peeks from behind a feather fan, showing a playfulness like dancing bubbles of champagne.

The pieces, many with few brushstrokes, create their own balance. In "La Belle en Noir (The Beauty in Black)," the woman's face appears with touches of red for lips and black for eyes. Her feathery black hat is like the top of a flower, and black streaks curve like a stem down her back and over her arm. Red shading fills one corner of the surface, the

rest is white.

In "Le Reve (The Dream)," a woman reclines in a gown. The bottom of the gown is flared, and her head rests in a pile of pillows; the gown and pillows form a shape like a bowtie.

"Bistro" shows a bustling setting, with some of the people only outlined, making white shadows. "Paris en Vogue," the work with the gold bow described above, shows a Champs-Elysees in the distance.

Gruau's scenes have the vibrancy of those by Toulouse-Lautrec. He likes "the epoch of Toulouse-Lautrec," with its graphics and styles, Gruau said. Gruau was born in Italy in 1910; as Count Renato Zervaghi-Riccardelli. He drew pictures as a child, and his first drawing was published when he was 15.

A Milan fashion editor encouraged him to become a fashion illustrator. The artist's father wanted him to be a diplomat, but his mother encouraged his artwork. He adopted his mother's family name of Gruau after moving with her to her native Paris to escape the rise of Fascism in Italy in the 1930s.

In the 1940s designers began asking Gruau to illustrate their fashions, and he rapidly influenced the fields of art and popular fashion. His elegant style held a strong impact through the years. Call (810) 649-1772.

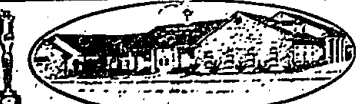
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