

# Artist's paintings make own special reaction

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

Mauro Machado studied to be a physicist. He put his scientific knowledge to use in the studio rather than the laboratory.

Machado mixes the paint for his works, blending colors into such materials as earth, oxides and cements. An exhibit of Machado's fascinating paintings continues to June 11 at the G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, 161 Townsend in Birmingham (call (810) 642-2700).

"When I was a kid I used to be in the library to find books on astronomy. When I studied at university I knew I'd never do anything with my physics. At that point I started to paint," the artist said when he was at the gallery for the opening.

"Machado has been painting for 10 years. He lives and works in Rosario, Argentina, where he was born in 1954. His artistic process involves putting the canvas on the floor and walking around it, adding substances to the surface. The reaction of the elements creates patterns swirling around the canvas, sometimes accented with small eruptions that form little craters on the surface."

"I prepare the background with pigments and earth, work with acids and other kinds of substances that attack the background, that can react with the background."

Machado stops the reaction process to create the color.

"The color is the only thing that I can control."

Colors include rust and mellow golden tones. Trickle of paint reach slender fingers over all or part of the surface.

The artist combines the heavens and the earth. There is a sense of exploration in his works, expressed in different ways. The texture of the canvas comes through. Spots of color seem to

## PERSPECTIVES

float over the surface like organisms under a microscope. One work features a dark cluster of strands that look like buddled figures or chromosomes.

But an ethereal quality comes through as well. Some colors are soft blues and grays, like the sky, water or smoke. Designs form a blossom in one part of the canvas, long "roots" entwining beneath. Other images resemble delicate water lilies. A group of thin strands suggests tree branches or the veins in a leaf. A row of "moons" is softly luminous.

Gallery owner George N'Namdi describes Machado's paintings as "beautiful . . . at the same time, intriguing."

"Each painting has . . . something in it that I like," N'Namdi said.

The artist took his undergraduate degree in physics. He was awarded a one-year scholarship to study art in Paris in 1985. At first he started etching — "It was familiar (with) my knowledge in science" — but then went on to painting, experimenting with new techniques.

"I work all day long," Machado said. "I have a studio out (by) my home . . . That is my real home."

"I enjoy being in the studio. I think it's the most important part of my life."

Machado creates in other ways too, finding a garden at his home.

"Really I enjoy it. It's a small garden."

### Light fantastic

A trip to India led to an important discovery for artist Sheldon Iden. His work became influenced by the relationship between light and darkness. This can be seen in the exhibit "Sheldon Iden: A Tribute" at the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery at the

Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple at Drake in West Bloomfield. The display runs through June 8.

Iden (1933-1993) was a native Detroit who studied art at Wayne State University and the Cranbrook Academy of Art. The oil and pastel paintings in the show have a subtle yet strong illumination about them, an incandescence that seems to emanate from the dark layers of paint. They comfort and inspire.

Iden's artistic process involved underpainting, applying deep color and series of glazes and transparent color. Many of the works give the viewer the feeling of floating in space or water. Shimmering, bright beams or sometimes a deep red appear out of the darkness. Geometric shapes draw balance.

The blue "Nile Riddle" features a V as if parting of a triangle in silver thread. "Summer" bears a blaze of gold on green, "Lights on the Double Horizon" a thin vertical slash on the blackness. In "Aegean," a shadow forms a symmetric zigzag over the blue-green surface. "Thar-Noon" is ablaze with red circles that resemble suns.

### In Smithsonian

Artist Laura Davidson, a 1976 graduate of Seaholm High School in Birmingham, will be featured in the June issue of Smithsonian magazine. Davidson, now living in Boston, opened a show Tuesday at the Smithsonian. Her art works are in collections at Harvard, Yale, the Rhode Island School of Design, the Toledo Museum of Art and the Getty Museum.

### Interventions

The Detroit Institute of Arts is the first museum to invite local artists to incorporate their work into a museum's permanent collection. You can see the results in "Interventions," a special exhibit opening Sunday, June 4, at the DIA, 5200 Woodward. Paintings, sculpture, video, computer art, performance art, clay, glass, metalwork, architecture, furniture and other pieces by area artists will be juxtaposed with DIA masterworks. Among the 45 guest artists are Jef Bourgeois of Rochester; Kyoung Ae Cho and Joseph Wexner of Birmingham; Todd Erickson of Redford; Beverly Fishman, Gary Griffin, Tony Hepburn, Conrad Knodel and Heather McGill of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills; Wendy MacGaw of Farm-

ington Hills; John Piet of Southfield and Robert Schefman of West Bloomfield.

### Helping hands

Members of the Palette and Brush Club have made a financial donation to the building fund of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association in Birmingham. Club members donated the money in conjunction with the club's 60th anniversary celebration. The anniversary luncheon will take place Tuesday, June 13, at The Community House in Birmingham. Guest speaker will be Hope Palmer.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at (810) 901-2569. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

## MAKE THE MOVE NOW!!



### THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO BUY

If you've been thinking about moving from your current residence to the house of your dreams or from an apartment to a starter home, this is the time to do it.

- The selection is excellent.
- Low interest rates are available.
- There are many financing options available.



## NOW is the right time to Buy a Home!

Purchasing a home has always been a wise decision, but current market conditions are making it even more attractive to buy now.

### EXCELLENT FINANCING IS AVAILABLE NOW

Interest rates are lower, and mortgage lenders are offering a wide variety of financing options. Low interest rates mean you can get more for your money.

- 30-year fixed mortgages are still available as well as many other financing alternatives.
- First time buyers are encouraged to purchase now through financing packages offering small down payments.

### YOUR HOME IS YOUR BEST INVESTMENT

Purchasing a home is the best way to build a solid financial foundation. A home not only provides you with warmth and comfort, it also serves as a long-term investment.

**Observer & Eccentric**  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

800 SPRING LAKE AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203  
800 257-ROCKWELL/ROCKWELL HILL

## Weekend home tour set

Five distinctive homes, including a landscaper's dream and two unusual farms, are featured in the Clarkston Home Tour XIII, Saturday-Sunday, June 3-4, in Clarkston and Independence Township.

The home tour is sponsored by the North Oakland SCAMP Funding Corporation, a non-profit organization with the sole purpose of funding Clarkston SCAMP, a summer day camp for children and young adults with special needs living in northern Oakland County.

A private champagne reception at the Mills Mall on Washington Street follows the premieres showing of the homes, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday. Reservations are \$50 per person and are available in advance from Clarkston SCAMP

or at 6:15 p.m. the day of the preview at Main and Washington.

Tour hours Sunday are noon to 5 p.m. Reservations are \$20 per person (tax deductible), including a light lunch at Mesquite Creek. Secure reservations by mailing a check to Clarkston SCAMP. Walk-in reservations will be available 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Main and Washington, with luncheon limited to the first 400 participants. A shuttle service will depart periodically to the homes.

Mail checks for reservations to Clarkston SCAMP, 6590 Middle Lake Road, Clarkston 48346. Your check is your receipt and will hold your reservation for the day you select. For more information, call (810) 625-3330 or the voice mail line, (810) 638-6957.

Give your heart an extra helping.  
Say no to high-fat foods.



American Heart Association



**DISTINCTIVE - SECLUDED...**  
Renovated ranch on spectacular Bloomfield acreage overlooks wetland area and pond. This fabulous property is absolutely "move-in" condition but offers many, many other possibilities.

Open Sunday, 1-4

**Century 21**  
Town & Country

294 East Brown Street  
Birmingham



810-901-0216  
24 Hr. Voice Mail

810-642-8100  
Office

Call LuAnn Fardell Linker, G.R.I.  
Associate Broker

## The Bluffs

Country Living in the City

One of a kind Rochester neighborhood that backs to Bloomer State Park. Rochester schools. Two minutes from downtown Rochester. Immediate occupancy.

Priced from 170's-190's

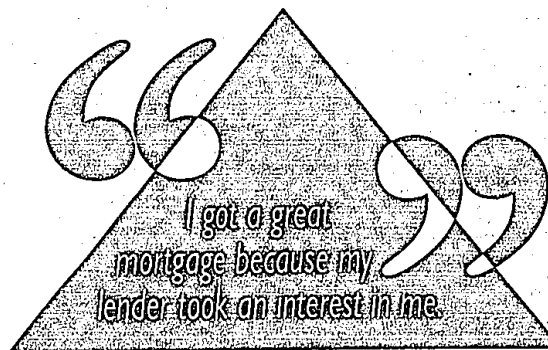
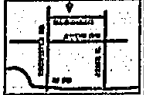
Riviera Homes Inc.

810-652-9755

Dynasty Homes Inc.

810-651-1999

Models Open  
12-6 p.m. daily  
(closed Thurs.)



We make sure your mortgage fits your needs and your meetings fit your schedule.

You'll find as many kinds of mortgages out there as kinds of houses. That's why your first move should be to call Michigan National Bank.

We'll meet you wherever—and whenever—you choose. Early in the morning, late at night—you tell us.

Then we'll help you choose the mortgage that fits your needs. And, this may come as a surprise, but that means a lot more than ending you with one of today's low interest rates. It means evaluating your entire situation—how long you plan to stay in your home, how much of a down payment is realistic—in short, taking an interest in you.

Phone 1-800-CALL-MNB or visit any branch. We'll make sure you feel right at home.

**Michigan National Bank**

