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Celebrate Michigan Artists

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BY MARY KLEMIC
NORTH WHITT

The works in the ninth annual Celebrate Michigan Artists exhibit in the Main Gallery at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester reach a special dimension.

It isn't so much three-dimensional — the show doesn't feature any large sculptural pieces — but dimensional another way, one that goes deep within rather than out.

"The work selected... exhibits much of the strong quality currently being explored in various parts of the country," juror Gary Sanger, executive director of the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, said in a statement. "There is a strong emphasis on representation, on the carefully restrained use of scale, and on the role photography plays in the making of new images and new art."

"It is not a moment for grandiose gestures and large scale art work or brush marks. It is more a moment for intimacy, reflection, and the role technology may play in facilitating the expressive gesture."

The display continues to Sept. 22 at the PCCA, 407 Pine. Featured works put the "ordinary" in a new light, giving it a poetic touch.

Hicki Kihata of Saginaw was awarded first place for his silver dye bleach work called "Scissors." It shows a shadow of scissors, delicate, scattered petals, and a large red dot that seems to seep into the surface while emanating a warm glow.

Art Kambouris of Southfield presents written text in red over a gray photo collage of scenes from an old church in "Last Will," for which the artist was awarded second place. Judith Bonmarito of Warren received third place for "Ain," in which she placed soft and graceful white images of such subjects as feathers, butterflies, birds and angels in a photo.

Honorable mention went to Susan Belner and Joanne Domka, both of Royal Oak. Belner's piece, "Gender Shrine," arranges images in ceramic tiles and steel into a little shrine. Domka's work, "Vanity Ballroom," a hand-colored photograph of an old sign with missing letters, is touching.

Petelia Bernard of Bloomfield Hills presents stark and haunting black and white photographs, "Provincetown" and "Cottage: Provincetown." "Vertical Stablizer," a collograph, and "Simplicity," a monoprint, by Marienne Hall of West Bloomfield feature components resembling wire mesh. Colorful mixed media pieces by Eun Young Koo-Lee of Bloomfield Hills — "The Orchestra on the Earth" and "The Mystery of Life in the Desert" — teem with life, containing animals, bugs and flowers. The moving "Cristo" by Hans Nordlund of Bloomfield Hills is an oil work of the crucified Christ with a block of wood projecting from it. "X Figure with Blue Dots," a charcoal and pastel piece by Marilyn Schreeter of West Bloomfield, features a surface resembling tire tracks. Eyes look out in the mysterious "Bricks," an egg tempera piece by Victor Vicini of Livonia.

Also at the PCCA, everyday objects are put to artistic use in an exhibit in the First Floor Gallery. The display by Nelson Smith, last year's first place recipient at Celebrate Michigan Artists, juxtaposes familiar items in a way that gives them a hidden meaning beyond the ordinary. Oil paintings, installations and performance art are included. The show is like a creative science fair, with explanations as writings over the objects and recordings that play while pieces are viewed.

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Violinist from page PREVIOUS PAGE

Kawakubo who plays on a 1707 "Cathedral" Stradivarius, will perform the Paganini "Violin Concerto."

"Paganini was the victim of a rare jawbone disease, and after several operations, had to have all of his teeth pulled out," explained Lane. "This left his face sunken and skeleton-like, and gave him a macabre appearance. It was a common belief that Paganini, whose name means 'little pagan' was able to execute super human technical feats on the violin, because he had sold his soul to the devil. In reality, his awesome technique was the result of persevering parents who simply made him practice the violin all day — every day."

It is a difficult piece to perform, but Kawakubo enjoys the challenge. She began her violin studies at the age of five and is currently studying with Robert Lipsett at the I.D. Colburn School for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles.

She made her first national television appearance on "Entertainment Tonight" as the featured soloist at the Command Performance Gala and has performed on several occasions for the Emmy Award-winning TV series "Musical Encounter" and made a cameo appearance in the 20th Century Fox motion picture, "For the Boys."

The opening work on the Italian program will not be Italian, but "Roman Carnival Overture," an early work by French composer Hector Berlioz.

This concert is being sponsored by Waste Management Corporation. "Music is just a bunch of notes on paper until you recycle it into a live performance," said Lane. "Waste Management is helping us recycle by sponsoring this concert."

Lane, a native of Livonia, performed as principal horn of the Michigan Opera Theatre for 11 years before returning to the University of Michigan for graduate study. She graduated magna cum laude in 1989 with master's and specialist in music degrees. An award-winning conductor, Lane's previous appointments include guest lecturer in conducting at Oakland University, Interim Music Director of the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony, and Music Director of the Troy Community Orchestra.

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