

Celebration from Front

at The Community House. Reservations are required for some of the events.

"I'm especially proud of a couple of things," Gersh said. "The continuing support of the past leaders, and we're especially excited about the lengthy lineup and the participation of the local gallery owners and the artists, and the huge schedule of free events. We encourage everybody to get to the talks and to see the show."

This year the usual suggested theme — as depicted hometown scenes — was eliminated, and artists could submit two- or three-dimensional work in any medium on any topic.

DIA director Samuel Sachs II was junior. A total 152 artists, from 338 entrants, will present 247 pieces that include paintings, photographs, batik, sculpture, ceramics, fibers, painted furniture and jewelry.

"That's a terrific show," Sachs said. "I'm quite pleased with the quality."

Familiar Our Town features will return: The Gala Preview Wednesday, Oct. 18, the Professional Women's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, Art & Jazz VI 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, and the artists' reception 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21.

The preview begins 6 p.m. with a Benefactors' Reception in the honor of our committee and Sachs. Beginning 7 p.m., Benefactors and Friends will enjoy cocktails and a strolling dinner.

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At the breakfast, Judy Knowles of the DIA Speaker's Bureau will present "American Art with a Michigan Connection."

Art & Jazz VI will feature music, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

At the free artists' reception David Simon, chairman of Our Town sponsor Franklin Bank, will present \$10,000 in cash prizes to the award-winning artists.

One of the first-time exhibitors in this year's Our Town is Marshall Frederick of Birmingham.

"I've become very sentimental about Birmingham," said the world-famous sculptor, 87. "In my old age I just feel sentimental about my hometown."

Another artist exhibiting for the first time in Our Town is 7-year-old Amber Frase of Swans Creek.

"It like drawing a lot," said Amber, an aspiring artist whose Our Town work is an acrylic painting of a unicorn. Her uncle told her about the exhibit.

Of the other artists participating in 1995, Julie Dawson of Birmingham, Natalie Gillham of Alhambra and Chuck Gillies of Berkeley have been in every Our Town show.

Among the participating artists' communities are Beverly Hills, Birmingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Clarkston, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Lake Orion, Lathrup Village, Orchard Lake, Rochester Hills, Troy, West Bloomfield, Canton, Livonia, Plymouth and Redford.

The sixth Our Town Student Art Exhibition, juried by Carolyn Vachek Hall, continues to Oct. 13 at The Community House. Students in grades 1-12 from more than 40 public, private and parochial schools took part. Award-winning pieces will be displayed during Our Town. The lobby of the Birmingham branch of Franklin Bank, 478 S. Woodward, will show student art works Oct. 14-22.

Musical from Front

regal, and humorous. One in particular is a story in itself, Prince Dauntless wears a frog-print top, leading the audience to think of the frog/prince story (a frog, when kissed turns into a prince). And, just like the frog/prince story, Dauntless really turns into a prince when he meets Winnifred. Winnifred's wardrobe is equally as interesting and humorous. Most of her "princess" fashions are rich in

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color and design, but some, like her sleep apparel, is just silly, especially the big, fluffy cow slipper.

The historic Players Club, which is home to PIP productions, puts the theater goes into a medieval mode. The lovely auditorium with its well hangings and high ceiling lead you to be-

lieve you are right there with Winnifred and Prince Dauntless. This is especially good since the scenery isn't very effective.

Another thing that isn't effective is the chase scene with a number of the characters. It isn't necessary and it only adds time to this lengthy production.

"Once Upon a mattress" is a good

experience for all ages. C.J. Nodus, producer and director, has taken a humorous and touching story and turns it into an enjoyable afternoon of food (hot dog or salad and chips, cookies and drinks) and entertainment.

Libby Prybyl, a ninth grader at Groves High School in Birmingham, has been involved in children and community theater productions for 10 years.

Symposium explores history of ceramic tile

The history and beauty of ceramic tile in Michigan will be explored in "Tiles in the Motor City: Crafting a Lustrous Place in History," a four-day symposium co-sponsored by Pewabic Pottery and the Tile Heritage Foundation Wednesday-Sunday, Oct. 18-22.

Lectures, tours, demonstrations and workshops will give an in-depth look at the dramatic role that ceramic tiles have played in enriching the architectural and cultural traditions of Michigan from the early 20th century to the present day.

For information, call the Tile

Heritage Foundation at (707) 431-8453, fax (707) 431-8455.

Lecturers will include Melanie Basil, director of museum and archives at Pewabic Pottery; Vance Koehler, curator at the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works; Cleota Reed, noted author and scholar; David Rau, curator of education at the Cranbrook Art Museum; and William Hunt, former editor of Ceramics Monthly. A special guest lecturer from England, widely recognized author and scholar Hans van Lemmen, will add an international flavor to the event. Now senior lecturer in art history at Leeds Metropolitan

University, he was a founding member of the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society in Great Britain.

Two scheduled bus tours will include a premier selection of historic tile sites in Detroit and another to Cranbrook will feature special guided tours of the Cranbrook Art Museum, the newly restored Saarinen House and various other sites on the picturesque campus. There will also be fully mapped self-guided tours of significant tile installations in the area not visited on the bus tours.

A special option for some attending the symposium will be

two tile-making workshops Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 16-18, at Pewabic Pottery, under the supervision of Anat Shifan, Pewabic's director of education. One session will be taught by David Ellison, custom tile maker and former production manager at Pewabic, and one by Frank Giorgini, author of the popular book "Handmade Tiles."

Financial backing for this unusual educational event has been provided by the Tile Promotion Board, Beaver Distributors Inc., the Virginia Tile Co. and various other corporate enterprises.

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