

## FINE ARTS

## Modular paintings bring special dimension

## PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

The works by Sam Gilliam now exhibited at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham are called paintings, but they're really more than that.

They have the liveliness of collages, the three-dimensional aspect of sculpture, the intriguing

surfaces of ceramics. Gilliam, acclaimed as a significant artist and art pioneer, is showing works featuring computer-generated images, rich surfaces seemingly thick with paint and lines from engineering plans.

The viewer and the wall or surrounding space become part of the works, which are on thick pieces of wood. Hinges allow the viewer to move segments around — to or from the side, up or down. The sides are painted differently, so one work takes on different appearances as the segments are moved. An image of a classical statue or flowers is juxtaposed with abstract swirls of vibrant shades.

The sides of the segments

aren't painted, so the layers of wood are exposed. It would be as if Gilliam were taking ideas if he painted them; this way, the sections easily accompany any arrangement in which they are placed.

Holes and curves let the wall show through, further adding to the piece and creating interesting shadows. Some surfaces bear thick strokes of paint that encourage the viewer to touch them.

Gilliam draws the viewer in to a work in other ways. One painting features squares framed in silver; square shapes on the canvas continue the motif. A portion of the center is like an inviting slice of sky.

Other works tantalize and intrigue, with surfaces that resemble tile, metal, steel or cloth; the surfaces may feature fine glints that gently sparkle or a hint of color that resembles a shadow. A splash of red on one side is matched with a similar splash on another side.

Gilliam burst on the art scene in 1974 with his "draped canvases," an example of which is included in the Robert Kidd exhibit, fastened to a wall and seeming to billow out. Also included are Gilliam's colorful framed pieces,

one of which consists of an arrangement of deeply colored areas with open spaces that are shaped like areas as well.

The show continues through Nov. 28 at 107 Townsend. Call (810) 642-3909.

## For Rabin

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was once given a painting by Franklin artist Maximilian Shaye. Shaye, who recently had an exhibit at the Preston Burke Gallery in Farmington Hills, gave Rabin one of his paintings in 1972. Rabin was ambassador from Israel at the time and was in the area for a bonds event. Among Shaye's treasured mementoes is

the letter Rabin wrote him thanking him for the art work.

## On the air

This year's Governors' Arts Awards, which include a tribute to Lenore Romney and the late George Romney of Bloomfield Hills, will be broadcast around the country as well as the state.

The Michigan Cable Telecommunications Association in cooperation with Bravo, the cable film and arts network, is taping the awards ceremony at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The event will be cablecast throughout Michigan 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. Bravo will air it nationwide 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, Dec.

6 and 8.

"We are all very excited about what's happening this year," said Richard Cole, event chairman. "Never before have we had such a great opportunity to let people know about Michigan's cultural treasures."

Tickets are still available for the ceremony, taking place Thursday, Nov. 16. Call Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan at (313) 961-1776 for information.

Mary Klemic is Oakland County arts editor. You can call her at (810) 901-2569. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

## Animation club sponsors seminar

The Animation Network Club is sponsoring a seminar 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at Windermere, 6050 Farmington Road, between 14 Mile and 16 Mile in West Bloomfield.

The seminar will feature special guest speakers Robert Mar-

tin, a professor of the arts at Wayne State University, and local animator Tom Roy. Bring your camcorder. Appetizers and refreshments will be served.

Tickets in advance are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children. Tickets at the door are \$10 for adults

and \$5 for children. Admission is free for youngsters under age 6.

For information or reservations, call Jane at (810) 626-2285 (sometimes the call is forwarded to a pager, so touch in your number). Call (810) 661-1700 for directions.



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