

FINE ARTS

Artist from page 1B

In 1974. The school rowing and football star has a long, strong interest in sports. His latest works are also featured, including the "Eco" series.

Weener's early works include shapes of baggage made of screens and rocks. They suggest body and soul, interior and exterior. Another piece features rocks suspended between a metal grid; they could be falling or rising.

The artist presented stories in a form of abstract visual poetry. He translated the George Bellows painting of boxes in a mine, "Slag at Sharkey's," to curving shapes of steel in a fenced area, a small universe with rectangular planet. "Abraham and Isaac" features a merging of vertical and horizontal

forms; the former holding a sharp piece above, the latter with a wide band gracefully folded across itself like a protective arm. "Gethsemane" with its jagged pieces conveys pain but also wonder. "Romeo and Juliet" presents the struggle of idealism and realism. "Pieces" (pronounced "far-in") series are shown. The series' title comes from the Greek for "to carry" and "to bear." They convey a balance with tension, a horizontal on a vertical. The vertical segments rise smoothly from the base and are slightly curved to

receive the horizontal piece, which could be a yoke or a profile. Weener named his "Eco" works for the "echo" of sound and response. Some feature round shapes that resemble Chinese hats (which contain the brain), bowls (which contain sustenance), but also broadcast speakers (which contain and release communication). With others, the round shapes are open, resembling emanations, or feature a screen, something to catch or filter.

"I am the most excited about the newest work on a regular basis."

Weener's attraction to art came early. A Philadelphia native, he enjoyed visiting Philadelphia Museum of Art as a youngster and seeing the Rodin, Brancusi and Duchamp works.

"It was just real natural for me," said Weener, who built his own studio behind his house in Birmingham. "My parents did whatever they could to encourage me."

"I always was... fascinated with things that were made by artists or artisans."

The Weener exhibit is part of

'We can enjoy observing and at the same time it's nice for the artist, a very rare opportunity to bring all the work together.'

Kiichi Usui
Meadow Brook curator/director

the gallery's "Artists at Mid-Career" series that honors outstanding Michigan artists. Artists can benefit by seeing their own work in this way, Meadow Brook curator/director Kiichi Usui said. It can bring back what was done as

the artist plans for the next jump, he said.

"We can enjoy observing and at the same time it's nice for the artist, a very rare opportunity to bring all the work together," Usui said.

Artists to visit Borders Book Shop in Birmingham

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Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts. Send news leads to: Mary Klein, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

ART CENTER

Borders Book Shop, 31150 Southfield Road, Birmingham, will present works and lectures by artists in March. For more information, call (810) 644-1515.

Best-selling author, writer and teacher Robert Piepenburg will discuss his latest book, "The Spirit of Clay: A Classic Guide to Ceramics" (Pebble Press, \$39.95), 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at the store. In his book, Piepenburg explores technical aspects of clay work but focuses on how to get in touch with one's creative self through clay. His talk is intended for both the novice and the accomplished artist. Piepenburg is author of the best-selling book "Raku Pottery," creates beautiful clay work and teaches ceramics at Oakland Community College's Farmington Hills campus.

Borders will host the third annual Pierce Elementary School

ARTBEAT

Art Gallery opening reception 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2. Customers may have cookies and juice while browsing the works of selected students from grades 2-5 of the Birmingham school. The works of these young artists will be on display all weekend.

CALLS FOR ENTRIES

Deadlines are near for area arts shows and scholarships.

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts seeks applications from artists interested in exhibiting fine arts or fine crafts at the juried Art & Apples Festival, Sept. 7-8 in Rochester Municipal Park. Currently rated among the top 10 fine arts fairs in the nation by Sunshine Artist magazine, Art & Apples features 300 exhibitors and on-site artists' awards. The estimated festival attendance is 150,000. Booth fee is \$300. Slides must be received by Friday, March 15. Entry fee is \$20. For an application form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Art & Apples Festival, Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine, Rochester 48307, or call (810) 651-7418 or (810) 651-4110.

Artists interested in receiving an application for the 22nd annual Birmingham Art in the Park should send, fax or call in their name and address to Common Ground, 7 S. Perry, Pontiac 48342, phone (810) 456-8150, fax (810) 456-8147. Applications are due Friday, March 15. This year's show will run Sept. 7-8 at Shain Park in Birmingham. Application fees are \$15, booth fees are \$250.

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts is offering two \$500 merit scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County who plan to major in visual arts at the college

or university of their choice. Candidates must submit eight to 10 slides of their art work, a brief description of their work and two letters of recommendation. Application deadline is Friday, March 8. Scholarship applications are available at the PCCA, 407 Pine, Rochester, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For more information, call education coordinator Lisa York at (810) 651-4110.

MEETING

The next general membership meeting of the Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield will take place 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, at the David Klein Gallery, 163 Townsend, Birmingham. The

CCBB is exploring new areas for involvement, one of these being young people and the arts. Representatives from two organizations in Waterford will explain how their groups work together to further the arts for young people in their area. David Klein will give a tour of the gallery's March show. Wine and cheese will be served.

CARD DESIGN

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts offers a one-day card design workshop for adults 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 8. Learn how to create unusual greeting cards. Registration deadline is Friday, March 1. For more information, call the PCCA at (810) 651-4110.

Applicants sought for vocal award

The Michigan Federation of Music Clubs announces auditions for the Elizabeth Gardner Vocal Award 10 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at First Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Applicants for the \$400 award must be between 18 and 22 years old on March 16, 1996, and residents of the state of Michigan. Previous winners of the award may not apply. Applications must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 9. For application

forms, call (810) 375-9534.

Audition requirements are one selection from each of the following categories: aria — opera or oratorio; Old Italian — pre-19th century; foreign language art song — French or German; and 20th century art song — American or British, in English. All selections, except the oratorio, must be memorized. Applicants must provide their own accompanists.

The entrance fee is \$8, plus \$15 for student membership if

MFMC if applicable. Exceptions are individual members of MFMC; members of federated music clubs of MFMC; and students of the following federated schools within MFMC — Alma College, Aquinas College, Eastern Michigan University Music Therapy Department, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Michigan State University, Oakland University, Olivet College, Spring Arbor College and Western Michigan University.

Musicale hosts scholarship auditions

The Birmingham Musicale announces auditions for the Junior Scholarships for brass, piano, voice and woodwinds.

Auditions for brass and woodwinds will take place Sunday, March 17, and those for piano and voice Sunday, March 24. Auditions will be held at Pine Hill Congregational Church, on

Middlebelt south of Long Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

Applications must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 9. For more information and/or application forms, call (810) 646-9312.

Applicants must either reside and attend school within the limits of the Birmingham or Bloom-

field Hills school districts, or study with a current member of the Birmingham Musicale. Applicants also must be enrolled in grades 9-12. Previous winners of the award may not apply.

Applicants must provide their own accompanists, and original music must be used by the accompanists.

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Win A KLM Trip For Two To Amsterdam!

The Somerset Collection and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines want to send you to the Netherlands. If you can answer the trivia questions below, pick up an entry form at the Somerset Concierge Desk during our Home & Garden Exhibit from now until March 4th. Need a hint? The answers are on display in the windows of certain Somerset stores. (We've even told you which store!)

1. Literally, what was the use of the Netherlands? (Answer at Meert Stree)
2. Who was the famous artist in the Netherlands' history? (Answer at D'A Store)
3. What is the most popular flower of the Netherlands? (Answer at Oilly)
4. What are the colors of the Netherlands' flag? (Answer at Rand McNally)
5. What book tells the famous tale of a young scholar from the Netherlands? (Answer at Doubleday)
6. What will need to be a common energy source? (Answer in the Corden Exhibit)

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