

# Watercolor

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directions artists go in this community. It gives an entirely new meaning to what it means to be a watercolor painter and proves the medium still has a great deal of life."

From Ellen Moucoulis' large-scale white rabbit with mysterious, evil-like undertones to Bostick's playful painting of fish, the exhibit showcases everything from a transparent watercolor of a water lily pond by Madonna University art professor Marjorie Chellatorp, to an acrylic wash of a classic Pierce Arrow automobile by Tom Hale of Farmington Hills.

"Ellen Sharp and I were taken with Ellen Moucoulis' rabbit. It's pretty startling. We placed it at the entrance because we want people to realize they aren't going to see a regular watercolor show," said Wilkinson.

MWCS chairman Stanley Rosenthal agrees with Wilkinson, the exhibition is not a typical watercolor show in that it reveals the broad spectrum being done in water media. As a Wayne State University art professor for nearly 30 years, Rosenthal is sometimes critical of watercolor show because many are overly concerned with technique and less concerned with image and modernistic issues.

"The show really represents a cross-section of watercolor from very traditional to highly con-

temporary and showcases the fact, the MWCS is truly a statewide organization with a traveling show that will visit five different venues this year from the Dornos Museum Center in Traverse City to the Museum of Art & History in Port Huron," said Rosenthal.

During the last 50 years Bostick has tracked the changes in the watercolor medium and the MWCS. He was one of three living MWCS founders, along with Emil Weddige of Ann Arbor and Thad Brykaleki of New Mexico, honored at the opening reception Jan. 20. Administrator of the DIA from 1948 to 1976, Bostick originally approached former DIA curator of 20th-century art Jan van der Marck about exhibiting the 50th anniversary show at the DIA. The first MWCS exhibit was held in the DIA's Alger House branch in 1947.

"This is quite an accomplishment to exhibit the MWCS at the DIA and to have a museum director and two curators not a watercolorist jury the show," said 84-year-old William Bostick of Bingham Farms.

In addition to the DIA exhibition, a retrospective of MWCS founders and their legacy is being held through Feb. 15 at the Scarab Club. Curated by MWCS board members Donald and Linda Mendelson of Southfield, the 50-piece exhibit features

paintings from 1939 to 1996. Eight of the ten founders including Bostick, Weddige, Brykaleki, Donald Gooch, and Mary Jane Bigler are in the show along with charter members such as John Tabb of Birmingham, Louise Nobili, Donald Thrall, Eldon Roths, and the late Walter Sullivan and Franklin Page.

"Being it's the 50th year we wanted to give some insight into the founders and the history of MWCS. It's a retrospective view of watercolors by the founders, selected charter members and artists who have carried on the legacy through the MWCS and as lifetime career educators of watercolor painting. The paintings were lent by the artists and their families, collectors, and the Wayne State University permanent collection," said Linda Mendelson.

Besides Hale, Chellatorp, Rosenthal and Bostick, other local artists included in the DIA exhibition are Barbara Schulman Duchen, Nancy Schulman Raitt and Dangoile Jurgutis of Farmington Hills; Elaine Cusmano, Karen Carter Van Gamper and Joyce Anne Manke, Troy; Darcy Scott, Bloomfield Township; Christine M. Unwin, West Bloomfield; Rita Mach Skoczen; Nancy Hopper, Birmingham; Betty Sturley, Beverly Hills, and Ann Loveland, Orchard Lake.

## Birmingham Musicales sets February program

The Birmingham Musicales' annual presentation of "Music by American Composers," dedicated to the Parade of American Music of the National Federation of Music Clubs, will take place Thursday, Feb. 13, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

Non-members may attend for

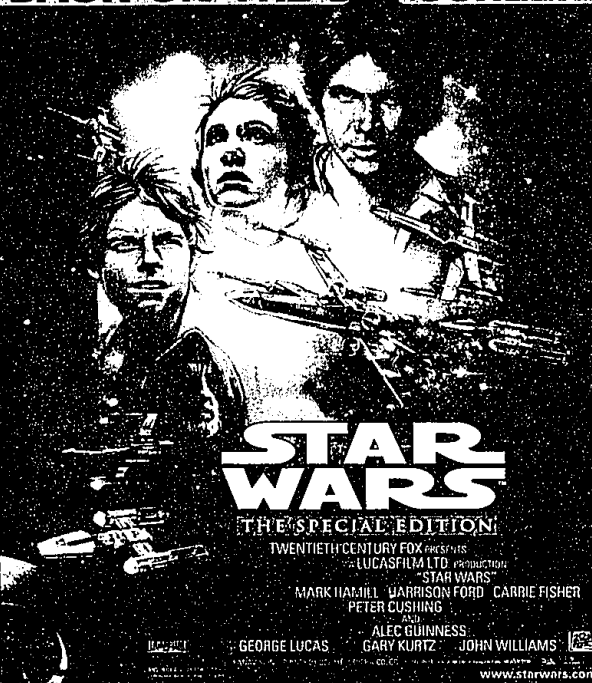
a nominal donation.

The 1 p.m. recital, chaired by Judith Basse, will open with works by local composer Ann Marie Kurnasch, an elementary instrumental teacher who just completed her master's of music degree in composition at Oakland University.

Her music will be performed

by Wendy Pardee, principal flutist of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony; Jon Chandler Bowes, pianist and teacher; and Marlene Plum and Robert Branch, soprano and baritone soloists at First Congregational Church in Royal Oak. For general program information, call (810) 647-8329.

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