

## FINE ARTS

# Art Center finds businesses for artists to exhibit

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

STAFF WRITER

Patrons of Ann Arbor businesses and cafes are enjoying pleasant and interesting art works while drinking their morning coffee, shopping for furniture, or picking up a sandwich for lunch.

The Ann Arbor Art Center's innovative off-site exhibition program provides nine different venues for Michigan artists such as Susan Heitman, Plymouth and Bruce Janda, Livonia, to display work in Ann Arbor. The exhibits create a valuable connection between the community and the artist, increasing appreciation, public awareness and support of the visual arts.

"The goal is to support local and emerging artists in our area," said Sharon Curry, Ann Arbor Art Center gallery director. "But in return the businesses have an enhanced atmosphere."

Curry took over the director position in March with the idea of expanding the off-site exhibition program begun in 1993. She immediately went looking for businesses with good lighting, a high traffic area, and an appropriate atmosphere for displaying art.

The newest venue, Workbench

## Off-site exhibition program

What: The Ann Arbor Art Center works with nine businesses and cafes to present the works of local artists to the public.

Here's a guide to exhibits at several of the sites:

■ Espresso Royale Cafe, 324 State Street, through Wednesday, Sept. 24, Michelle Hegy, Ann Arbor, creates acrylic paintings and computer generated works; through Wednesday, Oct. 22, Christopher Light, Kalamazoo, digitally edited photographs of flowers.

■ Espresso Royale Cafe, 640 Packard, Wednesday, Sept. 10 to Wednesday, Nov. 5, Jodi Rockwell, Ann Arbor, anthropomorphic ceramic and mixed media wall sculpture.

■ Espresso Royale Cafe, 214 S. Main Street, Wednesday, Sept. 17 to Wednesday, Nov. 12, Nancy Pannell of Durand, contemporary prints.

■ Amer's Delicatessen, 312 S.

State, through Tuesday, Sept. 2, Susan Heitman, Plymouth, large scale impressionistic portraits; Tuesday, Sept. 2 to Thursday, Oct. 2, Bruce Janda, Livonia, color photographs of Central Europe.

■ Workbench Contemporary Furniture, 410 N. Fourth Avenue, opening Sept. 15, Amanda Miller, Ann Arbor, colorful narrative paintings referring to childhood; artist talk 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24.

■ Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Complex, 5325 Elliot Drive, Thursday, Oct. 30 to Friday, Dec. 10, Canton artist Connie Lucas, colorful gouache technique creating abstract and figurative images.

■ Travis Pointe Country Club, 2829 Travis Pointe Road, through Saturday, Oct. 4, Ann Arbor Women Painters.

■ Oasis Hot Tub Gardens, 3201 S. State Street, through Wednesday, Oct. 15, Theresa Spruill, Ann Arbor, abstract and figurative lithography.

Contemporary Furniture will show "Twisted Fables," a series of colorful narrative paintings that refer to the childhood of Ann Arbor artist Amanda Miller. The show opens Monday, Sept. 15, with a fresh twist. Work-

bench will feature talks by artists on the last Wednesday of every other month beginning with Miller Wednesday, Sept. 24.

"It's a unique sort of idea because people can listen to the

artists as they stand in front of their work," said Curry. "The talks give insight as to what makes the artist tick."

Workbench manager Dawn Nadeau came up with the idea for the artist talks. She describes herself as "very interested in art but by no means a connoisseur."

"I think, it's important when you're putting up an off-site exhibit to have someone who knows about art," said Nadeau. "We're in the furniture business and can't really tell people about the art."

The off-site program allows Workbench to support the surrounding community and a large number of talented artists in the area. In addition, the store provides a perfect environment to show customer's the stylish look possible when coordinating Workbench's living and dining room sets with art.

"We have walls that can be filled, so why not team up and help each other out," said Nadeau.

This is the second off-site exhibit for Susan Heitman of Plymouth, who is showing impressionistic portraits in painting and architecture through Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Amer's Delicatessen.

Heitman, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in art

from Eastern Michigan University, first learned of the off-site program after showing work in the Ann Arbor Art Center's Artful Home last year. She has also exhibited at the Detroit Artists Market and Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson. Two of the art works on display at the delicatessen were recently juried into the Our Town exhibition to be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, through Sunday, Oct. 19, at The Community House in Birmingham.

"The off-site program allows me to get my art out there, so people can see it," said Heitman. "I feel the more people see my art work, they'll begin to recognize it."

Bruce Janda, a Livonia photographer, follows Heitman's exhibit with images of architecture, landscape and daily life in Prague, the 1,000-year-old capital of the Czech Republic and examines the history of two provinces comprising the Czech Republic. The color photographs tell the story of Janda's heritage.

"I have a deep love of history and genealogy and traced my roots back to Bohemia," said Janda. "Since 1994 I've made four trips there and hope to show the beauty of this historical land through my photography."

Janda became interested in photography in his 20s but

became serious about the medium only about five years ago. He has shown work at the Czech/Slovak Festival in Wyandotte and at another Ann Arbor Art Center off-site location last spring. The exhibition program enables Janda to reach a larger audience with his photography.

"For years, I'd been showing my work to friends and associates and they said why don't you exhibit your work," said Janda. "I'm a marketing specialist for Ford Motor Co. customer services in the Detroit Renaissance Center."

"But what really influenced me to exhibit was when a friend saw my photographs and said, she almost wept."

The Ann Arbor Art Center, Michigan's third oldest center for the arts, exhibits artist at the center as well as off-site. Through Aug. 31, artists Shawn Skabelund and Valerie Mann examine the history of two provinces comprising the Czech Republic and technological advancements on agrarian communities in the exhibition "Just Corn."

Artists interested in showing work at off-site locations in Ann Arbor should contact Sharon Curry at the Ann Arbor Art Center, (313) 994-8004, Ext. 122.

"We're looking for artists that show a lot of potential and promise," said Curry.

# Painter finds inspiration in nature when camping up north

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

STAFF WRITER

Jim Isakson's love for camping and nature shows in paintings on exhibit at Espresso Royale Cafe in Ann Arbor. A 32-year-old Canton artist, Isakson strives to instill an appreciation for Mother Earth in viewers by connecting dots of color in the Pointillism style of French Post-Impressionist Georges Seurat. His exhibition is part of an off-site program presented by the Ann Arbor Art Center at nine different venues around the city.

"In nature, there's so much diversity and mystery conveyed to me that provokes me as an artist to paint what we take for granted," said Isakson, a Center for Creative Studies graduate. "I

want to project that there's a lot more to nature than meets the eye. Nature is about reality, mystery and spirituality. It's rhythms, patterns and colors all have a meaning."

Isakson carefully and systematically organizes the series of dots into pictorial order thereby introducing life and rhythmic movement in the painting.

"In my paintings I like to create a strong visual rhythm as if the work were alive in the sense of being one organism," said Isakson. "The shapes interact with one another creating a kind of cause and effect. I like to think of a subject as if it were alive and to have an area that is recognizable but also includes abstract elements as well."

Isakson's first one man show at Clague Gallery in Royal Oak included the acrylic "North Fire," a painting capturing the color and movement of a roaring campfire. Viewers of this second one-man show at the cafe should step back to see the entire image, only then is it possible to decipher the howling coyote, moose and snake hidden in the flames.

"In 'Fossiland' Isakson depicts the sun's energy and its relationship with the earth over time. The flowing and curving landscape is a metaphor for the sun's radiating power, the dinosaur fossil a symbol of the ancient earth. 'Spirit Beast' shows a dead animal decomposing and becoming a part of the earth as

blue ghost-like shapes float off from the head.

"Nature entertains me but it also makes me think about its diversity and the role it plays," said Isakson. "As human beings we depend on it and are part of it for our own survival."

Isakson works as a graphic designer during the day. His nights are limited to painting three dimensional illusion in a two dimensional format.

"My objective is for the viewer to interact with the painting," said Isakson. "I strive to project a kind of static energy where dots and color relay the shapes and forms in a profound way."

Visits to his parents' home on Lake Superior's Keweenaw Peninsula provides plenty of

subject matter. When necessary, Isakson uses local resources to capture the beauty of nature. He recently spent several hours at Maybury State Park in Northville photographing dragonflies for his next painting.

"My inspiration comes from the great outdoors, just nature itself," said Isakson. "I like camping out in a tent without electricity, lighting a campfire. It inspires me to paint. I bring a camera so when I'm hiking out in the woods if I see something a photo preserves it to paint later."

Isakson exhibited in "The Art of the Garden" at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Canton Project Arts Fine Arts Exhibition before displaying work at Espresso

Royale Cafe II. Isakson approached the Ann Arbor Art Center about exhibiting in the off-site program because he thought showing in an intellectually stimulated environment would draw a more appreciative crowd.

"I like Ann Arbor," said Isakson. "It's very culturally diverse and based on the University of Michigan. There are people who have an interest in science and the arts. And as far as the location, the Espresso Royale Cafe is a real interesting environment to exhibit."

"The good thing about showing in a coffee house is the different kind of exposure. More people see my art than just those walking into a gallery."

## ART BEAT

## CELEBRATE MICHIGAN ARTISTS ON SATURDAY

The Point Creek Center for the Arts (PCCA) will hold a gala reception 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30 for the opening of its annual "Celebrate Michigan Artists" competition.

This year's first-place winner is Carole Zak of Rochester. The competition was juried by Elena Van Gent, assistant professor, department of art and design at Grand Valley State University.

The 11th annual exhibit is sponsored by Balian Eye Center, First of America and Oakland Printing Company.

PCCA is located at 407 Pine Street, Rochester; (248) 651-4110.

## ANGELIC PRESERVATION

"Tobias and Three Archangels," a 16th-century altarpiece by Florence artist Neri di Bicci, is the centerpiece of the Detroit Institute of Art's new exhibit, "A Renaissance Altarpiece Preserved: Techniques and Conservation."

The altarpiece has been off view for five years undergoing critical examination and treatment in the DIA's conservation services lab.

The exhibit includes color photographs illustrating the conservation treatment, and mock-up panels demonstrating the artist's techniques.

"Tobias Three Archangels" is a six-foot by six-foot wooden panel created by Neri in 1471 for the Church of Santo Spirito in Florence, Italy. The work demonstrates the artist's mastery of paint, glazes, gold and silver leaf, and is considered one of Neri's most opulent altarpieces.

The exhibit runs through January 4 in Gallery W104, 6200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit; (313) 935-7900.

## BUGGY BOO!

Rooper student Ben Jerue, a fourth grader at Rooper School was one of six prize winners in Clague Gallery's "All Bug All Media" exhibit.

Jerue, son of Roy and Terri

Jerue of Bloomfield Hills, created "Insects Inside." The piece will be framed and exhibited at the Royal Oak gallery through August.

## SO WHAT'S IT WORTH?

The Southfield Centre for the Arts is offering a five-session program to learn more about antiques, art and gemstones.

The program is intended to help students identify the value of those items tucked away in attics, basements or picked up at an auction or garage sale. Beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 9, the course will be held on five consecutive Tuesdays, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Instructors Frank Boos and James Krol bring a lifetime of experience to the program. Boos was the first US agent for London's Christie's Gallery. Krol is a former regional governor of the Accredited Gemologist Association

and past president for the state chapter of the International Society of Appraisers.

The five-part series will cover jewelry and gemstones; antique furniture; art, paintings and prints; antique to contemporary jewelry; and, silver and china.

Register at Southfield Centre of the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield; (248) 424-9042.

## BUS RIDE TO EGYPT

The Detroit Institute of Arts offers round trip deluxe motor coach services from ten metro Detroit locations to the "Splendors of Ancient Egypt" exhibit at the museum.

Regularly schedule motor coaches depart for the DIA at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the location.

The art express departs from Borders Books in Novi, Ann Arbor, Farmington Hills, Birm-

ingham and Troy. For a complete listing, of departure sites, call (313) 833-7900.

## DANCERS FIND HOME IN ROCHESTER

The Eisenhower Dance Ensemble (EDE) has moved from downtown Pontiac to Rochester Hills in West Hamon Road. An expanded facility will allow more room for rehearsal, storage

and classes. Additional offerings will include a professional track contemporary dance program, a professional track ballet program and a children's performing company.

EDE Center for Dance will hold its Grand Opening, Sept. 2-6. The center's fall season runs for 15 weeks, Sept. 2-Dec. 12. For information, call EDE at (248) 852-5850.

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**DAWN SCHULTER, Attorney, 1400 Woodward Ave., Suite 1000, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303**  
STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, No. 97-258710-1E  
Estate of JAMES H. HODIN, AKA JAMES JESSE HODIN (deceased, Social Security No. 015416402)

**CLAIMS NOTICE**  
INDEPENDENT PROBATE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Notice is hereby given that the estate will be further assigned and distributed to the person entitled to it by the court.

The decedent, James H. Hodin, whose last known address was 1324 Maryland, Birmingham, MI 48009, died July 4, 1997. An instrument dated September 8, 1996 has been admitted as the will of the decedent.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the independent personal representative, Geoffrey Irving Hodin, 145 Westbourne, Bloomfield Township, MI 48301, or to both the independent personal representative and the Oakland County Probate Court, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, Michigan within four months of the date of publication of this notice.

Notice is further given that the estate will be further assigned and distributed to the person entitled to it by the court.

Attorney for Decedent: Dawn Schuler, (734) 960-9440, 1400 Woodward Ave., Suite 1000, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303. Telephone: (313) 644-6000.  
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Published: August 24, 1997


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STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, No. 97-258710-1E  
Estate of NANCY L. FRANKLOTT, (deceased, Social Security No. 27755-915)

**CLAIMS NOTICE**  
INDEPENDENT PROBATE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Notice is hereby given that the estate will be further assigned and distributed to the person entitled to it by the court.

The decedent, Nancy L. Franklott, whose last known address was 8525 Willow, West Bloomfield, MI 48324, died July 30, 1997. An instrument dated May 21, 1997 has been admitted as the will of the decedent.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the independent personal representative, Terry Holland, Robin Haver and Scott Macleat, 8525 Willow, West Bloomfield, MI 48324, or to both the independent personal representative and the Oakland County Probate Court, Pontiac, Michigan 48311 within four months of the date of publication of this notice.

Notice is further given that the estate will be further assigned and distributed to the person entitled to it by the court.

Attorney for Plaintiff: Lawrence A. King, (734) 960-9440, 1400 Woodward Ave., Suite 1000, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303. Telephone: (313) 644-6000.  
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