Monet from pageC1

The final 12 were selected to pre-sent an everall picture of this turbulent time in Monet's life. Four of the "La De Bacle (The Breakup of the Ice") paintings (which all have the same name) from New Zealand, Madrid, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, and Switzerland are included to illustrate Monet's each extensita et suine, a serial early attempts at using a serial

approach. We wanted to highlight the "We wanted to highlight the Debacle series and the sub-groups within this series," said. Dixon. "This period heart been studied that much. It turns his life around. He's experimentiles with the light and atmospherethen at Vetheuil for the late 1880s serial paintings. For anyone as dedicated a landscape

painter as Monet, the Debacle or anything with that kind of impact, an artist would be anxious to record."

"La Debacle, the version owned by the University of Michigan Museum of Art, depicts the ice-filled Seine as cold and treacherous. According to records, 1879 was the coldest winter ever recorded in the region with the temperature falling to 13 below zero. A sudden thaw at the end of December, sont a torrent of ice and snow rushing through Vethouil and Lavacourt, toppling trees and wreaking, have as the river made its way toward Paris. Painting on in easel on ice and anow-covered banks, Monet sketched the works on site and

finished them later in the studio.

"The Seine at Lavacourt' is the largest painting in the exhibit and done when Monet was trying to get back into the Salon," said McNamara.

While painting "La Debacle" (the version on loan from the Kunstmuseum in Switzerland) Monet wrote to friends and told them that conditions were changing so fast that he couldn't paint on site, McNamara said.

Research

Dixon and McNamara visited Vetheuil and Paris last spring to research archives for insight to this period of Monot's life, and for background to write essays for the catalog, which examines the historical and biographical

events surrounding the Vetheuil paintings.
Charles Stuckey, Monet schol ar and curator of the Monet exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1995, also wrote one of the catalog's essays. Both Dixon and McNamara are looking forward to returning to Vetheuil as guides for a tour, "From Delacroix to Monet," in France May 16-24. The deadline for reserving a place on the trip is Jan. 30. Highlights include walking tours of sites where Monet painted and special exhibits at Musec des Beaux-Arts in Rouen and Grand Palais, also foliages in the Monet of the Decentarial al of Delacroix birth.
"The trip was necessary to put us in touch with scholars and the

Town, said McNamara.

'Vothouil is still a little town acrose the river and fairly unchanged, unlike Giverny which has become a tourist trap and Argentouil, swallowed by a heavily industrialized city, said McNamara. The letters are very important because they reveal how Monet feels. We also took a look at accounts of the Debacle in Paris, where barges were being crushed against the piers, to show how the press in Paris portrayed this.*

One of the most memorable experiences took place while experiences took place while researching Monet's account books where he recorded sold ignitings with titles as simple as Summer Landscape.

That was wonderful to hold

his ledgers and have access to rare articles and exhibition catalogs," said McNamers. "That war really a treasured moment. You feel like you're moving inside his brain."

The stories behind the paintings such as "Vetheuil in the Fog" from the Musee Marmottan in Paris illuminate Monet not only as a painter but as a man. "It's one of the sketchiest pintnings," said Dixon. "Monet offered it to opera tart Jean Baptiate Faure, he refused to purchase the state of the state o

Tours from page C1

Ward Presbyterian Church in

Ward Presbyterian Church in Livenia on Feb. 27. She originally called to book a tour in October. Spaces are still available for art lovers age 65 and over in the community. For more information, call (313) 422-1150.

"I think it's aomething the group would enjoy and not usually available. It's a unique and privileged thing," said Wold, "Impersonally interested in Monet and saw his work on a 1992 trip to France and Giverny and the 1995 Chicago exhibit." Kay VanDusen, travel director of The Community House in Birmingham called to arrange a tour after reading the story in the Arts & Leisure section of The Eccentric in February. The Community House rogularly hosts trips to museums, theater performances and symphony con-

certs as far away as Toronto. In 1995, when the Monet exhibit ran in Chicago, three groups made the trip.

"There's been a tremendous response," said VanDusen of Bloomfield Hills. This parties are shifted in the second one of our own paintings and having all his works together for the first time in a century is very exciting. Plus smaller exhibitions are comfortable and you absorb more and its going to be so wonderful having seen the haystacks and the Illies in Chicago."

Chicago."
Sharon Horman, a Detroit
Institute of the Arts docent for
the Art to the Schools Program,
will join a group of friends, also
Arts to the Schools docents, for a
trip to the Monet exhibition.
Herman booked the tour two

weeks ago. Several of the decents and the Chicago exhibit in 1995.

"We go to the art golleries and special museum exhibitions whenever we can for our own personal enrichment," said Herman, a West Bloomfield resident. "We're all involved with the art world, studying it. The thirst for Monet is insatiable, and the fact that these pieces haven't been shown together before is the reason we want to see the exhibition."

Jennifer Tobin, executive director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council "can't wait" to see the exhibition.

"I think, it's a fabulous oppor-tunity to have the exhibit this close to us," said Tobin.

Chief from page C1

characteristics: creativity, high

characteristics: creativity, high energy and an innovative approach to merketing.

"We'l] work on the way we communicate and market the activities of the DSO," he said.

"We'l] be a little more experimental. We'll he a little more experimental. We'll mix it up, try to present more events in the hall, broaden our jazz and family programing as well."

During his 10-year stint as Shief executive at the Pacific Symphony, Spisto "blended artistic savvy, street smarts and indefactigable persistence in fund-raising and building relationships," according to the Orange County Register.

In practical torms, Spisto's releating the pacific Crehestra's budget to \$7.5 million, leading a \$5 million fund-raising compaign that crased a \$555,000 deficit ahead of schedule, and established an endowment.

"It's bittersweet to leave," he

ment.

"It's bittersweet to leave," he said. "I spent my 30s here, and for me, this is where I grew up."

Indeed, Spisto's maturity in leading a symphony gained

national attention, especially since Pacific Orchestra emerged during a decade where other corchestras were folding and finding it difficult to subsist.
While Spisto – like all other director of symphonics – will attempt to find new ways to raise funds, he'll inherit the DSO in sound financial condition with a \$23 million budget, nearly triple the size of the Pacific Orchestra's.

In moving to the Midwest,

triple the size of the Pacific Orchestras.

In moving to the Midweat, Spisto is half a continent closer to his hometown of Brooklyn. And just down the Ohlo Turnpike from Pittaburgh, where he spent three years as director of marketing for the Pittaburgh Symphony Orchestra.

At a watershed in its history, the DSO has an ideal opportunity to redefine itself as Orchestra Place nears completion, said Spisto. Among his top priorities over the next five years, he said, will be to increase ticket allos, appeal to younger audiences, get orchestra members more grams around the area and

develop more corporate partner-

ships.
"I was overwhelmed by the development projects, and the 'can do' attitude in Detroit," said Spisto, who flew into Detroit at the end of September and

November.

"For me, this role is all about building relationships with the board, the orchestra and the

board, the rechestra and the community.

Reportedly, Spisto was at the top of the BSO's top 20-candidate list. After Volpe resigned in August, BSO Board Chair Al Glancy contacted Spisto and encouraged him to apply.

I was impressed with the nononsense style of the board, and they immediately engaged me, said Spisto. "The board is a Who's who (in Detroit). The only thing that'll take some getting used to is the weather."

Initially, it seems that Spisto will focus on elevating his profile as a player in the metro area cultural scene.

'I'm going to live this job every.

I'm going to live this job every.

"I'm going to live this job every waking moment," he said. "It's like being a minister of a parish. Your work is never done."

Conversations from page C1

will no doubt gain momentum. The revised time table calls for the sculpture to be in place by

2000.

It's time to move ahead with the Gateway project. But more importantly, it's time to become more tolerant of the myriad

Heat up your winter at

viewpoints on what is "appropriate" public art.

The strength and curse of a democracy is the struggle to move ahead into a diversified world, yet still maintain a cultural heritage. It's a delicate balance.

And now, it's time to step up to that challenge.
Frank Provenzano is an arts reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be reached at (248) 901-2557, or send information to 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

ART BEAT

Art Beat features various hap-penings in the suburban art world. Send Oakland County arts news leads to Frank Proven-zano arts reporter, Birmingham Eccentric Newspaper, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009, or fax (248) 644-1314.

Metro Detroit Ford Des

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fax (248) 644-1314.

Meet Italian artist Littorio Del Signoro during an exhibition and sale of his works 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18 at Park West Gallery, 29469 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. The exhibit continues to Feb. 5.

During the special exhibition

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SESAME STREET LIVE

OPENS THIS WEDNESDAY!

TUESDAY WIDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

76

hours, Del Signore will mingle with patrons, answer questions, and sign any of his paintings that are purchased. Del Signore's works feature oil painting on canvas. Using vivid colors, he depicts mainly outdoors images, including beautiful city streets and people. Born in Sulmona, Italy in 1938, Del Signore moved to Montreal, Canada with his family in 1978. In Sulmona, Del Signore studied with the master family in 1978. In Sulmona, Del Signore studied with the master studies at the Ecolo dea Beaux-Arts in Annency, Franco. There he studied with J.P. Ser-

Sing

with

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Live!

ralongue and carned a diploma

ralongue and carned a cipioma with honors.

Del Signore's oil paintings are in many private, public, and corporate collections in Europe and America. His works also hang in the Pinacotheque and City Hall of Chieti, Italy. Musical artist Celine Dione includes Del Signature has been been constituted.

Celine Dione includes Del Sig-nore in her private collection.
Park West Gallery is open 10
a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednes-day, until 9 p.m. Thursday-Fri-day and Saturday and 11 a.m. to
6 p.m. Sunday. For more infor-mation, call (248) 354-2343 or
(800) 521-9654.

(800) 521-9654.

MUSIC WORKSHOP

The first in a series of Classical Musical Appreciation Workshops begins with former WQRS morning heat Paul Russell 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at Borders Books & Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

The public is invited to attend

Hills.

The public is invited to attend the free event. For information, call 1248; 737-011.

Russell will lead a discussion of three new CDs from Deutsche Grammaphon: "A Hymn for the World" (Cecilia Bartoli/Andrea Decelli). Notre Dame Polyphony" (Orlando Censort), and "Mystic (Messinen)" (Myung-Whun Chung).

Marian Nelson, author of the children's book "Priscilla's Patch, will sign copies of the book 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 after storytime at the Northville District Library, 212 West Cady, Street. Plymouth artist Jennifer Riopelle, who illustrated the book, will also be on hand. Call (248) 349-3020.

Nelson will also be at a storytime and book signing 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 and 7 p.m. Wodnesday, Jan. 28 at Burnes & Noble Booksellors, 17111 Hoggerty Road, Northville for a storytime and book signing. Call (248) 348-0696.

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