Artist rises like Phoenix from Russian folklore

"You'd never guess by looking at Igor Beginin the story of the man behind the paintings." Beginin was born to Russian parents who fled their homeland for the former Yugoslavia when 15 members of his father's family were executed with machine guns during the Revolution. A Canton resident and art professor at Eastern Michigan University for 30 years, Beginin grew up in a cultured home. His father played the guitar and friends frequently dropped by to recite Pushkin or play classical music on the piano.

But all that ended when

ratine played the guild ratine played the guild recite Pushkin or play classical music on the plane.

But all that ended when Beginin's father was shot by a firing squad in the former Yugoslavia. Beginin fled the country with his mother and 'lived a life of lies' to surviviet. The symbol of the straight of the straight of the straight of the symbol o

"I remember mixing pigment powders like 19th century



Arts festival: Livonia Arts Commission president Bob Sheridan displays a watercolor by Igor Beginin (left) and a pastel by Candice Rivard. Both works will be on exhibit in Fine Arts in the Village June 13-14 at Green-mead Historical Village.

painter Edouard Manet," said Beginin. "Everything in art was done to promote the communist government and its policy."

Phoenix rising

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Phoenix rising
Since those early years,
Beginin earned bachelor and
master of fine arts degrees
through scholarships from
Wayne State University. The
award-winning painter's work
has been published in several
books including West Bloomfield
author Chris Unwin's "The
Artistic Touch 2." Exhibiting in
national and international
watercolor shows, museums and
alleries such as the Cary watercolor shows, museums and galleries such as the Cary Gallery in Rochester won Beginin a spot in "Who's Who of American Art" and Who's Who in

American Education." He recently wan the Juror's Choice award in the Fine Arts in the Village competition. The abstract work, "Homage to Carl Sagan," will be on exhibit June 13-14 in the historic buildings of Greenmead Historical Village in Livenia. Fine Arts in the Village is not two shows, the Livenia Arts Commission is hosting Saturday-Sunday, June 13-14. Visitors will find 221 arts and crafts booths in the streets of the village and fine arts hung inside the Newburg Church and School, Quaker Meeting House and Shaw House. One of the accomplishments in Beginnie's errapbook of newspaper clippings he's most proud of is receiving U.S. citizenship in 1960. There are also the covers

Beginin painted for the Detroit Free Press Sunday magazine of Eastern Market in 1955 and burned-out buildings on 12th Street after the 1967 riots. Other clippings tell of exhibits which take much time and effort. "I don't enter too many local shows, usually only the Michi-gan Water Color Society, because I've juried so many of the shows," said Beginin. Tin cans filled with dozens of oaint brushes line a wooden

the shows," and Begnin.

Tin cans filled with dozens of paint brushes line a wooden table in his basement studio. The globs of paint placed along the edge of the table mimit the variations of red, blue and green found in his paintings. Jars and tubes of paint are stored on several shelves in the studio.

Begnin stresses although he is a painter, drawing is the basis for all of his work. From content paintings such as "Night Stalker" to totally abstract works such as "Homage to Carl Sagan," Begnin puts his heart and light tagged to the study that the same proper to the beauty of the world and the suffering of thers.

"I start with texture or a bloof color and then set out to resolve the painting," said Beginin. "I'm abstract by choice. Some people say there's this camp and that camp, but I've done realism and obstract. In painting, as in life, we need variety."

Beginin's paintings whether hung or stacked against the wall can be found in every room of his home. An abstract in the living room, although framed, Beginin studies and plans to change. Something bothers him about the painting. ners. "I start with texture or a blob

"I don't want to be in control because it becomes too much craft and not art," said Beginin.

Livonia Arts Festival

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Livonia Arts Festival

In addition to Beginin, Fine
Arts in the Village features 46
artists from as far away as
Armada. From 98 entries, 53
paintings, sculptures, pastels,
prints, drawings, photographs,
clay and mixed media work were
chosen by juror John E. Van
Haren, art professor at Eastern
Michigan University and department chair from 1979 to 1994.
Van Haren awarded \$2,500 in
cash prizes in the competition
sponsored by the Livonia Arts
Commission. The exhibition
includes a variety of styles from
Abstract to Expression and Realism. Among the more thought
provoking works in Bary Scott's
surrealistic watercolor of an
abundoned doll laying on the
floor, a suitcase, and a piece of
rope hung from the ceiling.

"A lot of it is traditional and 98
percent of people relate to it,
said Bob Sheridan, Livonia Arts
Commission president.

This year the juror selected
the show from the actual works
instead of from alides. Sheridan's
favorite is "Silence," a charcoal
drawing by Dianne Burkhardt of
Northville.

"The first-place winner, it's the
mystery of it and the imagination of a table set for two," said
Sheridan.

This is the first year Sheridan
chaired the floor at the

tion of a table set for two," said Sheridan.
This is the first year Sheridan chaired the fine arts show.
"It's a lot of work but well worth it," said Sheridan. We're trying to develop an interest in the arts in Livonia."
Stephanic Skaggs is chairing the 22nd annual Arts and Crafts

Livonia Arts Festival

What: The Livonia Arts Commission presents Its 22nd annual arts and croft show in the streets of Greenmead Historical Village and the second annual Fine Arts in the Village in the historic buildings at Greenmead. On the grounds, but in a separate area, there will be a traveling museum by Precious Moments. Admission, annixing and shuttle are free. parking and shuttle are free.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 13, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 14.

Where: Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Road, (south of Eight Mile Road), Livonia. (248) 477-7375.

Show spotlighting fine art, wood, fiber, jewelry, metal, photography, glass, and pottery. She spent the last year visiting artists at shows in Ann Arbor, Grosse Pointe and Novi. Charlene Berry, duleimer; Intiraymi, an Ecuadorian group and guitar due Sean Blackman and John Arnold will provide the enter-

Arnold will provide the enter-tainment.

"Half of the artists are new-said Skaggs. "I'm really happy about that. We're still crafts but tine crafts.

When asked what sets the Livonia Arts Festival apart from those other shows Skaggs said, by far it's the setting. We have the nicest setting. The fact that it's in the village and we're listed in the National Registry.

ART BEAT

BPRING POTTERY SALE

Birmingham Bloomfield Art
Center's annual pottery sale featirres work of student and professional potters.

The sale includes a range of
decorative and functional ceramic pieces with princes from \$310

\$300.

Sale will be held 10.

Sale will be held 10 a.m. to 5 Sale will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Birmingham Bloomfiield Art Center, 1616 S. Cranbrook. For information, (248) 644-0866.

VILLAGE PLAYERS 1998-99
SEASON
The Birmingham Village Players announced their upcoming

The Birmingham Village True res announced their upcoming schedule.

Next senson's offerings include: 'She Loves Me, 'opens Nov. 13; 'Death Trap,' open Jan. 8; 'Fiddler on the Roof,' opens March 12; 'Long Days Journey Into Night,' opens May 14.

The final show in their current season, 'Moon Over Buffalo,' opens June 19.
For ticket information, call (248) 644-2075.

ART & MYSTERY AT BORDERS

Borders in Birmingham will host book signings for two writers with large followings in metro Detroit.

ers with large followings in metro Detroit.

"On Tuesday, June S, Robert Lacey and Loren Estleman will each discuss their latest books.

"Lacky's recent book, "Sothe-by's: Bidding for Class," is a historical look at the famous art auction house, He is also the author of acclaimed books, such as "Ford," and "Little Man."

"A Whitmore Lake resident, Estleman has emerged as one of the most prolife and widely read mystery writer in America.

His latest novel, "The Witchinder," features Detroit private investigator Amos Walter Control of the con

Estleman's other books include "Whiskey River," Edsel," "Motown," and "Stress."
For information about the book signings, call (248) 203-0069.

DSO'S NEW OFFICERS

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The volunteer council of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall announced the election of officers for 1998-2000.

The new officers include: Lucy Dabol of Trey, president; Jean Carman of Bloomfield Hills, vice President of projects; Ellie Tholen of Birmingham, vice wesident of public relations: Eva Wishnery of La Salle, Ontario, Vice prosident of membership; Patricia Senecoff of Bloomfield Hills, vice president of education and outreach; Hoy Kizer of Rockester, vice president of Rockester, vice president of administration of lineary Putints of Bloomfield Hills, corresponding secretary; and Mary Putints of Bloomfield Hills, corresponding secretary.

responding secretary.

Elected to the volunteer council's board of directors are Mary



held at the Detroit Zoo, 4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 14. For information about the other activities to commemoratethe founding of Israel, call (888) 481-5943.

Israel's 50th

100

Gregg of Bloomfield Hills; Joyce Hetzel of Sterling Heights; Ann Lawson of grosse Pointe Farms; Mary MacNee of Bloomfield Hills; Patricia Martin of Birmigham; nancy Pacitto of Detroit; Marjorie Saulson of Franklin; Margaret Tundo of Troy; Richard Vandewater of Rochester; and, Barbara Warner of West Bloomfield.

The volunteer council is a committee of Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall. Its purpose is to promote and support the DSO through community involvement projects and fund-raising activities.

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ALLAMERICAN EXHIBIT

The Arts League of Michigan presents, "She Be Me," an exhibit by women of African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic and native-American ancestory at the Dell Pryor Galleries in Detroit.

This exhibit was developed to pay tribute to and to showcase the wide and brilliant artistic

talents of female fine artists and craft artisans from a variety of cultures and ancestries, said Oliver Ragsdale, president of the Arts League.
Twenty-one artists displaying their works in a range of mediums are included in the show.
Dell Pryor Galleries is located at 1452 Randollp in Detroit's Harmonie Park, between Madison and Gratiot avenues.
For information, (313) 963-5977, or (313) 964-1104.

PLENTY OF CERAMICS

The "Contemporary Interna-tional Ceramics" at the Sybaris Gallery examines new works by ceramists who live and work

Collectively, the six ceramists off subtle, minimal reinterpreta-

tions of basic ceramic forms.

The exhibit runs through July 11.

Sybaris Gallery is located at 202 E. Third Street, Royal Oak; (248) 544-3388.



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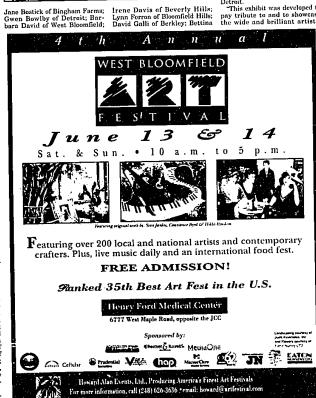
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