

## Art Fairs from page C1

To keep the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair fresh and vital, 65 new artists were chosen from nearly 2,000 application entries this year. Demonstrating artists add to the excitement and educational aspect of the fairs. Fairgoers are able to not only see the finished product, but the process of creation. This year, artists demonstrate everything from pottery to basket making, glass blowing, painting, and carving in gold.

Instilling an appreciation for the arts in children is among the most important of the art fairs' goals. A free Children's Art Activity Center, run by art teachers from the Michigan Art Education Association, allows children and their parents to create art projects. The center on Church Street (one-half block south of South University) operates 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, to Saturday, July 18. The activities are free, but donations will be applied to scholarships.

A variety of performers, from boogie-woogie pianist Mr. B to the Ann Arbor Pioneer Theatre Guild, will delight crowds on Church Street, north of South University, and at the intersection of South University and East University.

**State Street Area Art Fair**  
Riak displays his raku vessels in the State Street Area Art Fair. The State Street Area Art Association, which includes members from local businesses, began and continues to sponsor the State Street Art Fair, now in its 31st year. A nine panel jury selects contemporary and traditional art, including glass, painting, ceramics, photography, fiber and wood for the show which

### Instilling an appreciation for the arts in children is among the most important of the art fairs' goals.

went from 30 artists in a tent on State Street to more than 300 artists on five streets. Two-thirds of the artists are invited back based on the points awarded by jurors during the fair. Riak, who teaches ceramics part time at Northern Michigan University, raised four children by selling his ceramics. He exhibits vessels bearing "copper flash," a glaze he formulated several years ago, along with new white crackle raku in booth 207 on North University. Wife Julie is now helping Riak hand-build some of the vessels. After break-

ing an arm two years ago, Riak was unable to throw pots for several months. Now, they work together, selling their wares to 60 galleries around the world.

"This is going to be the biggest and best ever with about 100 new artists," said Kathy Krick, fair director.

Entertainment stages are located at Liberty Plaza on the corner of Division and Liberty, State and Washington, and Liberty and Thompson.

### Summer Art Fair

This is Dave Kronenberg's first year as director of the Summer Art Fair. He worked alongside Shary Brown for seven years before assuming his current position. The 28th annual fair is the largest of the three fairs, boasting more than 650 artists (from 39 states and Canada) who specialize in contemporary

American art and fine crafts ranging from traditional baskets and pottery to gold and gemstone jewelry, sculpture, folk art, glass and painting.

"I'm most excited about the fact we're working together with the other two fairs to make it a better event," said Kronenberg. "It's led to an increase in sponsorship and to a better looking fair to the observer who doesn't know there are three separate fairs. But we'll all keep our identities."

Founded in 1971 as a single-block showcase for artists from the Ann Arbor community and University of Michigan art students not allowed to exhibit in the Ann Arbor and State Street art fairs, the Summer Art Fair has grown to six blocks. That early group of artists, which included Riak, eventually

became The Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans, organizers of the Summer Art Fair, Creek-town Art Fair, and Holiday Art Fair at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. Originally affiliated with the University of Michigan, the Guild now has 1,300 members around the country.

Michigan artists will discuss their techniques and creative process while demonstrating their art in a tent near the corner of Main and Liberty Streets. The Imagination Station, a free art activity center for the family, is at Liberty and Fifth. There will also be storytellers and magicians to entertain children. And for the first time, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum joins with the Summer Art Fair for an activity and display space on Main and Washington.

## Megdall from page C1

After years of denigrating references of glass art as "only a craft," Megdall is among the finest local artists who have proven that glass sculpture isn't solely about function and craftsmanship.

His more in-depth playful sculptures demonstrate the confluence of light, movement and balance. One of Megdall's proudest inventions — a six-foot grandfather clock — offers an abstract interpretation of keeping time.

Two large platter-like discs are balanced on the sides of an elongated transparent rectangular

shape. One disc has the hands of time, while hanging from the other is a quietly moving pendulum.

To pay the bills and maintain his life as an artist, however, Megdall said creating a trademark glass product line of vases and bowls was necessary to bring in a steady revenue.

"Nana, a famous painter who didn't have to do portraits to keep doing their own art," said Megdall, who formerly taught at the Center for Creative Studies, Roper School and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.

"I want to do what I'm doing for a long time," he said. "I guess I have a big survival instinct. Some day, I'd like to focus more on making poetic statements in my sculptures."

It helps to survive, of course, when you have a business partner who handles the marketing and endless tasks of dealing with customers.

And it helps when the business partner, his wife Debbie, is his biggest supporter, said Megdall.

### Perfect partnership

Nearly every day, Megdall starts work by nine and ends by three, before the summertime temperature becomes stifling.

On most days, when he walks into the cool compress of his air-conditioned home, his wife is busily keeping track of orders, billing and the ever-present "to do" list. When he's not shaping glass in his studio, Megdall is packing his art work in boxes, or preparing to travel to one of the 30 annual art fairs around the country.

"I couldn't do this without her," said Megdall. "I don't know if artists are capable of marketing themselves. Just doing the work is enough."

"Because the two of us take care of what needs to be done with the (art) business, we can balance time with the kids," he said. "It's perfect. I get to see my kids (2 and 4 years old) all the time."

Six years ago, according to the Megdalls, they were just getting by. Today, they're more than doubled their business to the

point where Stan said he's "maxed out" on his production output.

In the near future, they expect to move into a commercial gallery space. Alongside Megdall's functional glass work will be his more artful sculptures, he said.

And, he hopes, the gallery will also be filled with the glass works of other artists.

Many of whom, like Megdall, are proving that having an instinct as a glass sculptor is paying off.

## Icons from page C1

works will be appreciated exclusively for the quality of artistic expression.

But then, would any of these pieces be considered by mass audiences if they were created by unknown musicians? Not likely.

There's no separating the art from the celebrities. And that's not as insipid as it may sound.

That, as they say, is just the way it is.

Part of the proceeds from the exhibit go to the Ann Arbor Art Fairs. And Yoko Ono has donated money paid for Lennon's art to AIDS research and other non-profits around the country.

If the artworks of Lennon, Davis and Garcia can enlighten audiences about issues of peace,

human rights, individuality, and protection of the environment, then perhaps their visual artistry may one day be considered as powerful as their music.

Perhaps the way to break through the game of mass commercialism is to play along. The long, strange trip just keeps getting stranger.

### ART BEAT

#### WHO HAS HAD GREATEST IMPACT ON LOCAL CULTURE? YOU CHOOSE.

Nomination forms are available for the third annual Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Arts Award.

The award is presented to the individual or organization who had the greatest impact on art and culture in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area during the past year.

Forms are available at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art

Center, The Community House of Birmingham and the Baldwin Library. Also, please look for nominating forms in the Eccentric newspapers.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, July 31.

Last year, the award went to Birmingham resident John Cynar, co-curator of the Pontiac '97, a sculpture exhibit that brought together nearly 100 local artists. Marshall Fredricks received a lifetime achievement award.

The award will be announced in early September. The formal presentation will be made at the opening of the Birmingham Society of Women Painters Exhibit on Friday, Sept. 18 at the BBAC.

#### CRANBROOK FUND-RAISER

Cranbrook Art Museum will hold its third annual fund-raiser, "Serious Moonlight," 8 p.m., Saturday, July 18.

Tickets: \$75, general; \$150, patrons. For information, (248) 645-3333, or (248) 433-3700.

# Steps to Greatness


Presented by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Livonia Observer

The first step in your Steps to Greatness is designed to excite, enhance, and educate you and your staff


—TOPICS—

- Integrity in Sales
- How to Build Endless Referrals
- How to Qualify a Prospect
- Winning Without Intimidation


Featuring National Speaker and Author



**Bob Burg**  
Million Dollar Round Table Speaker



**Robert Shenefelt**  
Great White North Distribution Services



**Rich Levinson**  
RHL & Associates




Local Speakers Include:

Cost of seminar includes Book and 12 cassette package. Retail Value: \$146

\*They've shared the platform with this guy. He will give you the information that will enable you to build your sales career. If you are really interested in a career in selling, listen to what Bob Burg has to say... You will be glad you did! — Zig Ziglar

—INTERMISSION ENTERTAINMENT—  
THREE MEN AND A TENDR

SPONSORED BY:

HURRY! SEATING IS LIMITED!

Thursday, October 8, 1998 • Burton Manor • 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
For Reservations, call 734-427-2122 • FAX 734-427-6055  
Visit our Web Site at [www.livonia.org/steps](http://www.livonia.org/steps)

**\$149** All Chamber Members

**\$199** Non-Members

Advance payments only: Check, Visa, MasterCard

INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND LUNCH



This summer, take more off for less. Make SpaThira your destination for SoftLight™ Laser Hair Removal. Imagine, the gentle solution for unwanted hair — at the ultimate destination for smart skin care!

## hair free, carefree

### summer skin

Offer now extended.

Buy one SoftLight hair removal treatment area at SpaThira and get a second area treated free\* when you present this ad! Offer valid for a limited time only.

CALL NOW 888 69 THIRA  
2800 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, Michigan

**SPATHIRA**

THE SOURCE FOR SMART SKIN CARE

SoftLight™ is a registered trademark of the SoftLight Corporation. \*Treatment must be scheduled within 30 days of purchase. Restrictions may apply.



Consolidate Marvin's Week invites you to enjoy the continental cuisine at Marvin's Bistro

**Marvin's Bistro**

**Brunch at the Bistro!**  
EVERY SUNDAY from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Includes Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Bacon, Chicken, Roast Turkey, Tenderloin, Muffins, Fruits, Vegetables, Soup, Salad & more.  
(Small menu variety also available)

**Adults...\$9.95 Children...\$4.95**

**Summer Dinner Specials**  
1 1/2 lb. KING CRAB LEGS...\$16.95  
14 oz. NEW YORK STRIP...\$14.95

**INEXPENSIVE DAILY SPECIALS**  
Lunch from...\$4.95 Dinner from...\$7.95

**HAPPY HOUR Mon.-Fri. 3-7 p.m.**  
With Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres!  
Enjoy Our Piano Bar

Wed.-Sat. 7 p.m.-midnight  
and at Lunchtime Mon.-Fri. noon-2:30 p.m.  
(Cigars available at the Piano Bar)

Specializing in Steaks, Seafood & Pasta  
in a Friendly, Casual Atmosphere  
15800 Middlebelt (between 5 & 6 Mile) • Livonia • 734-522-5600