

Liu

from page C1

painterly technique and interpretive skills.

Critics have noted that he is at the center of an attempt to stake out an aesthetic that is an alternative to China's "official" art.

To look deeper

In subject-matter and emotive power, Lui Liu's paintings and sculptures present a masterful technician whose layered work contains a raw eroticism, subtle sensuality and sheer compositional deftness.

True to Lui Liu's Eastern aesthetic influences, each line, stroke and gesture are inextricably related.

The work at Galerie Blu includes Lui Liu's "Realism Series." The exhibit also includes a few paintings from his psychological portrait and paradoxical series.

In the staid and somewhat predictable local gallery scene, Lui Liu's starkly sexual depictions will likely challenge audiences who've seen their share of abstract paintings and landscapes.

And some of Lui Liu's work will probably offend those who believe nudity and sexual gestures belong in private settings. (Granted, there is a "soft sleaze," and a "naked shock" to some of the poses.)

But regardless of taste, what is undisputed is Lui Liu's brilliant technique and expressive range that critics have compared to Surrealists Rene Magritte and Salvador Dali.

And his work also shows unmistakable influences of western painters from Holbein to Caravaggio to Courbet.

In particular, Lui Liu's realistic painting of bare-breasted women with famous faces (Marylin Monroe, Princess Diana, Jackie Kennedy Onassis and Mona Lisa) is a modern-day mythical interpretation of Theodore Gericault's famous "The Raft of Medusa," circa 1819.

"It's not safe art, it has aggressive subject-matter," said David Papa, owner of Galerie Blu. "I want people to be challenged by Lui's work."

After the strong reaction – positive and negative – to Lui Liu's work in a group show held two months ago at the gallery, Papa said he was compelled to exhibit a broader selection of paintings and sculptures.

Ironically, for the last three years, Galerie Blu has shown primarily the work of pop artists, such as Romero Britto, known for his Absolut Vodka print ads, and papier-mâché figurative sculptor Steven Hanson. Neither are considered cutting-edge, nor provocative artists.

But Papa thought it was time to take a risk.

"The technical ability (in Lui Liu's art) forces you to accept the work, and to look deeper," said Papa, who calls the current exhibit the best ever at his gallery.

A conduit for culture

Part philosopher intent to bridge differences between East and West, part social critic focused on overturning meaningless traditions, Lui Liu is surprisingly nonconfrontational and unassuming.

He speaks in a quiet, thoughtful tone, often quoting western philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein's notions of truth and language.

Long after his work has been completed and has been hung on the walls at Galerie Blu, Lui Liu takes a break from being interviewed to study the imagery in the paintings as if he were an objective viewer wondering about the source of the work.

The power of Lui Liu's work, however, cannot be distilled to any particular tradition. "I don't try to be ancient or modern," he said.

On the contrary, Lui Liu contends that artists are mere conduits for culture.

"You can't say you're an artist and you're different from others," he said. "I just want to accept what comes to my mind. I don't feel I have to understand as long as the mystery is there."

Paint Creek

from page C1

that site, Paint Creek had to stay put.

For now, Paint Creek faces the proverbial chicken-and-egg problem: What comes first, finding a new and larger space for the art center, or a capital campaign to support such a move?

How and when Blätté confronts this challenge will likely shape the 21st-century course of Paint Creek.

Moving on

In many ways, Blätté offers the qualities much in need at today's nonprofit arts organizations. She exudes a passion for arts education, working with artists, and has a real-world idea of how to get things done.

And, with 10 years experience as a broadcast journalist and news anchor in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Little Rock, Ark., Blätté understands that a positive public perception for Paint Creek might be the difference between success and mere mundane existence.

In the early 1990s, shortly after returning to Rochester from Little Rock to raise her family, Blätté began to work on her master's degree in public

administration at Oakland University.

"I always knew I wouldn't be a reporter for the long term," she said. "I didn't like living from contract to contract, the long hours and the endless deadlines."

Blätté recalled an epiphany to "move on" during an assignment that required her to stand in the pouring rain outside a bank in Little Rock waiting to report on the fate of the hostages inside.

The role of stay-at-home mom back in Rochester, however, slowly diminished as Blätté went from a volunteer to director of development at Paint Creek. Today, she characterizes time devoted to her job as "40 plus" hours.

But Blätté is hardly complaining.

"When I went back to school, I set a goal of one day being director of a nonprofit," she said. "Paint Creek was a natural fit."

Yet the experience of fund raising and seeking grants may not have prepared Blätté for one of her most immediate challenges – convincing corporate donors and the city of Rochester

Todd

from page C1

nating images.

With these dynamic visual stimulants, Murphy creates illusions of images moving to their own speed in a timeless void, as if he has dipped into the collective unconsciousness and come up with his own 3D impression of a familiar, but unseen reality.

When Murphy focuses on simply presenting a chair, microphone, birds, a tiger, or a rhino, however, his photo-painting process, rather than the painting becomes the focal point.

And invariably, it seems that the process of making art should never getting in the way of the art itself.

Reporter

from page C1

her with him as he travels across state seeking help from Michigan Militia members. Meanwhile, Cully's father and agents from two different law enforcement groups are in pursuit.

"It started as a kind of funny country-western mystery, and then I don't know how it changed, but I think it was the Arly character sort of came out of the mark," Meehan said.

Meehan tells the story through the eyes of several characters,

none actually taking center stage. It's an unusual approach, but unlike many mystery writers who concentrate on the plot, Meehan gives detailed life histories and interesting quirks to all of his characters.

"One critic said I couldn't seem to get rid of my characters, I love them too much," Meehan said. "The first two novels were in the first person about a detective minister. But I was reading Larry McMurtry's 'Moving On' and I liked the way he wove together this wonderful cast of characters. In this book, I guess, the bridge is the main character."

Meehan gives a vivid portrait of the Michigan militia movement including a visit to a church dedicated to militia ideas.

"I liked the idea of climbing into the heads of each character and giving each one his own language and feel," Meehan said.

Meehan said he doesn't have a thorough background on the militia movement other than through conversations with a policeman.

"He viewed them as bumbling,

Spirit of Christmas Presents

1998 St. Nicholas Light Display

at Domino's Farms

November 20 - December 31 • 6 - 10 nightly

Providing families and children of all ages with a festive drive-through light display with exciting new light sets. Come indoors for activities such as the Celebration of Trees, a Winter Wonderland with a miniature electric train, a Christmas Around the World Creech exhibit, Photo opportunities with St. Nicholas and his live reindeer, an Expanded Hands-On area for children, a Christmas Gift Store, and an exhibit sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company illustrating the evolution of the famous Coca-Cola Santa. All proceeds benefit children and charities in southwestern Michigan this Holiday season. So, please join us and experience the gift of giving.

It Feels Good To Give

Major Sponsor:

The Coca-Cola Company

Domino's Farms, Inc.

Progressive Tool

and Industries Corp.

Shandy Power

Zero-One Graphics

Midwestern

donations:

\$5 Mon.-Thurs.

\$7 Fri.-Sun.

\$10 Bkrs.

Event's Photo by Debbie H. Hamilton, 1998 for The Coca-Cola Company

* Spirit of Christmas • 24 Broad Lloyd Wright Drive • P.O. Box 522 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106

714/910-1420 • Located west of US23, off Pioneer Road

Spirit of Christmas is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization • www.spiritofchristmas.org

Join us on Thanksgiving Day

November 26,

11:00 am - 3:00 pm for

a lavish holiday buffet.

Featuring Carved Roasted Turkey with

Giblet Gravy, Virginia Ham and Prime Rib.

Plus a selection of additional Entrees,

Fresh Vegetables, Potatoes and Pastas.

Our breakfast station will include all of your favorites along with a

cooked-to-order waffle bar. Last, but

certainly not least, save room for our deliciously divine dessert bar.

You'll be thankful!


Plus entertainment provided by a Jazz Trio

\$19.95 Adults

\$10.95 Children 6-10

\$17.95 Senior Citizens

Children under 5 free



Hilton

Novi

21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375

Reservations Required

248-349-6389

DON PEDRO'S



AUTHENTIC MEXICAN CUISINE

24366 Grand River

(3 blocks W. of Telegraph)

CARRY OUT (313) 537-1450

FREE

BANQUET ROOM

Plan now

for your holiday parties!

CHECK OUT OUR

\$3.79 LUNCH SPECIALS

\$4.79 DINNER SPECIALS!

MARGARITA & BEER SPECIALS WEEKLY!

LIGHTED PATROLLED PARKING

MEXICAN SAMPLER

FOR TWO \$10.95

Includes: Shrimp Fajitas,

Steak, Chicken, Guacamole,

& Salsa, Burrito, Tostitos

Dinner • Coupon Expires 11/22/98

Not Valid with any other offer.

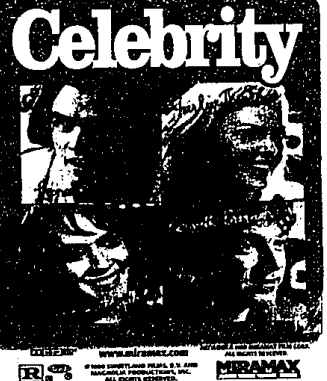
THE

Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

Present's

MIRAMAX



CELEBRITY

Send in stamped self addressed envelope to

CELEBRITY

2701 University Drive, Suite 500

Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326

50 Winners for tickets admitting two

will be drawn at random. All entries must be

received by November 19th.

Starts November 20th At Theatres Everywhere

You Ain't Seen

Nothin' Yet!

JOLSON

A Spectacular Musical!

starring Mike Burstyn

OPENING TUESDAY

Nov 17-22 • Fisher Theatre

*Subject to availability; plus service charge if applicable; not valid on tickets

previously purchased • Ask for K type ticket • Tickets at Fisher Theatre box

office & all participating outlets • 248-645-8668 • Info 313-872-1000

COUNTRY FOLK ART

& CRAFT SHOW



NOVEMBER 20-21-22

DAVISBURG

SPRINGFIELD-OAKS CENTER

1-75N to Exit #93 Dole Hwy. North to Davisburg Rd., West to

Andersonville Rd., 1/2 mile south of town of Davisburg

THE LEADING FOLK ART & CRAFTS SHOW IN THE

NATION FEATURING THE BEST, TOP QUALITY

FOLK ARTISANS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Country & painted furniture • folk art paintings, prints, calendars, greeting &

cards • quilts • pottery & stoneware • baskets • wood crafts • quilts • blacksmith

• dolls & toys • pleated & stenciled lamp shades • miniatures • teddy bears •

tole painting • rag & braided rugs • carvings • dried florals • country clothing,

accessories & textiles • gourmet delights & thousands more handmade &

unique decorating and gift-giving, & affordably-priced creations, including

French Country, Primitive Country, Americana, Victorian & Southwest items.

* All beautifully displayed and sold in three-sided country room setting booths •

IT'S A MAY VARY!

Friday 8 pm - 9 pm Adm. \$8

(Early Buying Privilege • Public Welcome)

Sat 10 am - 6 pm Adm. \$4

Sun 10 am - 4 pm Adm. \$4

Children under 10 Adm. \$2

* Your One Paid Admission Re-admits You All 3 Days

Country

Folk Art Shows, Inc.

Holly, Michigan

(248) 834-4151