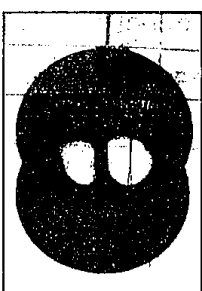


Fate

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(movement) introduced me to discarded or ready mades that revolted against salon artists," said Ragins. "I started doing constructions, dark violets and browns, until my surgery in March 1999. That's when I used a bod pan as a form to wrap coils of yarn around. They formed a heart and then I added the sticks. I began doing brighter colors. They got braver with color and design and breaking up the form. The red, white and blue 'Annie T' was done for my wife. You can see the painting techniques more."



Wall sculpture: Michael Ragins created this vibrant blue and red work titled "Light."

Ragins crosses two bicycle tires then wraps them with yarn in "Louisiana Charm." The structure for another fiber wrapped work is a chain link fence. Most of the pieces are based on the figure. People play an important role in Ragins' life. He credits his wife of 15 years, their two teenagers, family, friends, and the doctors and rehab staff for continuing to stand by him through the illness. The fact, they've touch his life and "make it a joy to be alive" shows in his art.

"I want people to enjoy it," said the 42-year-old Ragins, who's exhibited at the Detroit Repertory Theatre and the Sherry Washington Gallery which represents him. "I want them to walk away with something and something that sticks with the thousands of images they'll see in their lives."

department chairman Doug Semivan thinks viewers will be moved by the works and the courage it took to create them. He's glad that he asked Detroit artist Gilda Snowden to curate Ragins' exhibition at Madonna University.

"Michael's ideas are fresh," said Semivan. "I don't think anyone here has seen anything quite like them. He explores his personal vision, the struggles he's been through. I try to motivate the students, for them to realize every moment counts."

Faculty

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"We may be small but that's one of the advantages of studying here - individualized attention," said Popoff-Parks, a faculty member for 21 years. "And in the past two to three years, we've increased our concert offerings. The chorale performs at least four times a year and they're going to Ireland this summer."

"Students have the opportunity to audition and perform with the Livonia Symphony and write program notes for the orchestra," Popoff-Parks said. "We're always looking to improve the program. Faculty members are getting involved with organizations like the Michigan Music Teachers Association and the Livonia Piano Teachers Forum

to further their own growth. We also offer a certificate in piano pedagogy. The 33-hours includes training to avoid pianistic injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome."

Donna Kallie is as big a cheerleader for music studies at Madonna University as Popoff-Parks. An adjunct associate professor of flute and voice for 20 years, Kallie, in addition to teaching 35 flute and piano students, is an instructor of music education for classroom teachers. She believes early exposure to music influences children to develop a love for it. Kallie's father was a professional clarinetist/saxophonist and her mother a pianist. Three of the four siblings in her family went

on to teach music.

"I tell my students to perform as often as they can and frequently accompany them on piano at recitals and competitions," said Kallie. "I tell them the flute is the framework of the puzzle. When you add the piano, you're able to look at the whole picture."

Although Kallie began piano studies in second grade, she didn't take up flute until the eighth grade. She believes it's never too late to learn to play an instrument.

"Flute is the hardest beginning instrument," said Kallie. "It has no reed or mouthpiece but hearing the pleasant sound and tone of the instrument I wanted to play it."

Kallie puts her talents into play when she joins Dave Wagner, an associate professor of music, in the first four movements of Claude Bolling's "Sonata for Flute and Jazz Piano."

"This combination of jazz and baroque is very unique," said Kallie, a Plymouth resident. "It's a modern work, a classical work but with jazz accompaniment. It's fun to play with syncopated rhythms. It's not what you'd expect."

In addition to Popoff-Parks, Kallie and Wagner, adjunct music and voice instructor Gini Robison performs three selections, including Poulenc's cycle of songs about animals, with pianist Nancy LeGrand.

Van Gogh

from page C1

exhibit.

"We're going to be open seven days a week," said Abel. "We'll need nine volunteers per shift because of the high liability of the works. Each painting is estimated at \$30 to \$40 million."

Abel expects the Friday and Saturday evening volunteer will be the most difficult to fill.

"We're going to be recruiting van Gogh volunteers during a volunteer orientation on Feb. 27 and we'll have a signed interpreter," said Abel. "We're very diverse and invite people who are interested but physically challenged to volunteer. We want everyone to have the opportunity. We need volunteers to greet people as the enter and exit the galleries. It's a perk. The goal is to rotate volunteers during their shift so they'll be able to see all of the exhibit."

You don't have to know anything about art to volunteer. There will be a short volunteer training session before every shift.

"They don't have to feel that they won't know what to do," said Abel. "We just want them to be a friendly face because when people feel welcome they want to come back."

A volunteer for 15 years and a

member of the DIA speakers bureau, Wendy Evans has been giving presentations on the van Gogh exhibit at a variety of venues. The Bloomfield Township resident is volunteer committee chairman. Like Abel and Parker she thinks the exhibit will be deluged with visitors and wants them to enjoy their stay.

"We learned a lot during Egypt," said Evans. "We're more pro-active. We're restricting the numbers of school groups and the number of people we let into the galleries at any one time. We ask for people who can be a friendly face in the galleries but not discuss the art. They're to be extra eyes for the security force as visitors will only be allowed only so close to the art. There really isn't any criteria except they'll have to be able to stand for that length of time with short breaks."

Eileen Kozloff is looking forward to the van Gogh exhibit even though she'll be volunteering more hours than usual. The West Bloomfield resident is volunteer chairman. She gives 600-600 hours of her time to the museum each year. Only 50 hours are required from volunteers.

"We desperately need as many volunteers as possible," said

Kozloff. "When you're representing the museum you put your best foot forward. We want them to like what they're doing and to smile and greet the visitors that we're so happy to see. And volunteers get back more than they give. For Egypt and 'Angels from the Vatican' it was so exciting to see the enthusiasm of the visitors. The kids had so much fun seeing their names in hieroglyphics. For 'Angels' it was exciting to see so many elderly people in wheelchairs. It was almost spiritual."

Abel said members of corporations, book study and garden clubs, the PTA, and co-workers should consider volunteering in groups.

"We're taking teams of 10," she said. "We're going to take a photo of the groups for our Wall of Fame in the volunteer office. This is especially fitting since the exhibit is van Gogh's portraits."

Bernadine Bennett believes volunteering in the galleries is a good way to find out more about what's involved with donating time on a regular basis. As chairman of the museum shop volunteers, Bennett recruits sales people to help customers with merchandise. They must become members of the DIA's Founders

Society and serve 50 hours a year.

The orientation on Feb. 27 will familiarize prospective volunteers with service in the galleries and the seven other areas of the museum. Bennett, a Canton resident, will need more help than usual to staff not only the museum shop but the 1,800 square-foot outpost store on the second level. In addition to helping customers, volunteers will restock shelves.

"I've sent out a van Gogh alert asking our volunteers to serve extra shifts," said Bennett. "Our buyer has ordered everything from tiny tea pots with van Gogh paintings on them to T-shirts with the DIA's van Gogh on it. We're launching our online catalogue March 1. Tell people to look for us at www.dia.org."

Godspell

from page C1

after I read it," she explained. "We worked on character development."

On stage, Caleb Gilbert portrays Judas and John the Baptist, paints a mural as a way of foreshadowing the coming of Christ.

Kevin Hentkowski, a theater major at Wayne State University, portrays Jesus in the show. Jim Diggs of Plymouth is St. John.

"He has the most beautiful tenor voice," said Rembiz. "He did 'Godspell' in the early 1980s at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills and is a graduate of Brother Rice High School in Birmingham."

Keri Wayne is choreographing the show. Julie Yurconis is musical director and Giordano is assistant vocal director. A four-piece band will provide musical accompaniment for the show. Bryon Harvey portrays Matthew and is also assistant director.

This is the first time Rembiz is directing a show for the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford. Matthew Ripper of Redford, president of the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford, is the producer for "Godspell."

Rembiz, a Livonia resident and graduate of Mercy High School, graduates in April from the University of Michigan. In the fall she'll start law school. In 1998 she founded Jack-in-the-Box Productions, a non-profit theater company dedicated to presenting high quality shows at an affordable price.

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The Kmart February 20, 2000 weekly ad, on page 10 features the DVD "Random House". This DVD movie will be available Tuesday, February 22 at \$19.99. On the same page, the PC software "Disney 3D Adventures" will not be available due to a manufacturing shipping delay. We regret any inconvenience this error may have caused our customers.

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY

In The Sports Authority 2/20 insert, the HEAD Men's Vests for \$29.99 displayed on page 7 will not be available at this time due to merchandise delivery delays.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.