

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

### Van Gogh's impact felt more than 100 years later

Vincent van Gogh would probably be amazed that a Livonia business owner would love his art so much as to create a promotion in his honor. But that's just what Christine Van Dam has done with her *Van Dam Meets Van Gogh* campaign at her women's boutique in Laurel Park Place.

More than 100 years after his death van Gogh and his work are still making an impact on the world. Even though the Dutch painter remained relatively unknown in his day, *Van Gogh: Face to Face*, an exhibit of the artist's portraits, continues to draw sell-out crowds to the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"I'm trying to make people aware of the exhibit and because I'm Dutch, I love van Gogh," said Van Dam, who's owned the original Van Dam's store located in the Renaissance Center for 23 years. "We've brought in all of these posters. It's just for fun."

#### Uniting people

But Van Dam didn't just hang posters of van Gogh's work, she commissioned Chrystyna Nykorak to create a dozen of her batik silk scarves inspired by van Gogh's paintings of sunflowers and irises. Van Dam learned about Nykorak's art from Reinhard Lemke, the portfolio manager at Laurel Park Place. Lemke knows Nykorak from serving on the board of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce for which Nykorak is vice president of membership development.

"It's so nice to build bridges between people," said Lemke, who's also general manager at Wonderland Mall. "I knew van Gogh continues to



**Inspiring irises:** This batik design scarf by Chrystyna Nykorak was influenced by the paintings of Vincent van Gogh.

have an impact after his death, but I never expected van Gogh to bring retailers together."

One of the ingredients in running a successful business is offering merchandise that's unavailable anywhere else. At Van Dam's, customers looking for "contemporary clothing with a vintage mood" can find one-of-a-kind items that add an element of fun to their wardrobes.

"I try to bring in new and upcoming designers," said Van Dam. "I buy only one of a size so you're not watching yourself coming and going. Most of the accessories are handcrafted by artists around the country and locally as with Chrystyna when possible."

#### Van Gogh Gold

Nykorak's original scarves heighten the senses with their vibrant blues and yellows. Like all of Nykorak's work they were created using the wax resist method of batik. Nykorak learned the ancient art while studying with British and Norwegian artists in Africa.

"I thought the designs would be difficult but I learned a lot from looking at van Gogh's backgrounds," said

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Art offerings: At left, Kay Rowe of Village Artists Studio of Plymouth, poses with her watercolor titled, "Pray NOW!" At right, Susan Horstmann's replica of the Mayflower Hotel will be unveiled at Wild Wings Gallery.

## Artrageous

### 3-day art event returns to the streets of Plymouth

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

• STAFF WRITER •

PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN



Look for the yellow and red balloons hung outside Plymouth businesses Friday-Sunday, May 19-21 - that's where the artists will be.

Plymouth is Artrageous returns with dozens of artists and music playing on the streets as the three-day event kicks off Friday evening. Eleven participating businesses will host receptions complete with hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and opportunities to meet the artists.

"It's a unique event," said Annette Horn, co-chair

of Artrageous with Scott Smith of Penniman Gallery. Horn is co-owner of Native West Gallery. "It's a coming together of community. Non-art related businesses can host artists. Every year we try to make this a fun event. Visitors will be walking on chalk art created by students and we have more musicians than we've ever had. When people are leaving the stores they'll be hearing music immediately."

"Plymouth is still Artrageous," continued Horn. "The kick-off is exciting with about 18 Plymouth Symphony Orchestra musicians playing on Penniman by the symphony office at 8 p.m. And at 5:45 p.m. we'll give a free Plymouth poster away to the first 100 people."

Canton artist Kay Rowe had a good time at last year's Friday night reception at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Co. She's returning this year with 11 of her students from the Village Artists Studio. In addition to the more than 50 paintings on exhibit, Rowe and student members of the studio will demonstrate watercolor and pen and ink techniques on Saturday and Sunday. Students of the Village Artists Studio, novice and professional alike, exhibit their works monthly at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Co.

"Everybody really loved it," said Rowe. "The reception was so much fun. Our group is like family. We had a chance to meet everyone's family. It's really an opportunity for the artists to exhibit."

#### Memories

This is Susan Horstmann's first time exhibiting at Plymouth is Artrageous but not her first visit to the city steeped in history. She grew up in Plymouth and has exhibited at Art in the Park for more than seven years.

Wild Wings Gallery will unveil Horstmann's resin replica of the Mayflower Hotel during Artrageous. The gallery commissioned the Saline artist to recreate the structure which stood at the corner of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail for more than 70 years. It was demolished in 1999 to make way for a complex of offices, stores and a major restaurant.

Horstmann, a sculptor known for replicating the architecture of homes and businesses in clay and resin, remembers Sundays spent at the Mayflower

with her family.

"We used to eat brunch there and then walk up to Cloverdale in summer to get ice cream," said Horstmann. "The Mayflower was part of downtown." Horn can't wait for the artists to begin even if the Mayflower, located two doors down from Native West, is nothing but a hole in ground. She'll showcase the beaded work of Gwen Fedor in addition to the usual jewelry, painting and home accessories stocked at the gallery featuring Southwest American Indian art. Fedor, who earned her bachelor's of fine arts degree at Eastern Michigan University, breeds reproductions of Sioux dress and amulets as they existed in the 1800s. Hundreds of seed beads and uncounted hours of labor went into the smoked tanned hide ceremonial dress on display at the gallery.

#### Plymouth Is Artrageous

When: 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 20, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21.

Where: Downtown Plymouth, Main Street, Ann Arbor Trail and Penniman.

given to infants to promote health, happiness and a long life. They originally held the infant's umbilical cord and were believed to bring protective spirits. We'll also have Gwen's dolls dressed to represent the Sioux and Plains Indians in the 1800s.

Additional participating art walk businesses:

■ Plymouth Beading - Lori Grba and Pam Nichols exhibit jewelry and decorative objects made from glass and handmade beads. Livonia bead maker Don Miller demonstrates glass bead making Sunday, May 21.

■ Frameworks - A bonanza of artists including Judith Braun, Stacy Dumas, Steve Martin, Jeffrey St. John, Marissa Lenort, and Rachel Siggins exhibit

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## CONCERT

### MOT joins with youth choirs to bring Broadway home

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Susan Lindquist is glad she invited the Michigan Opera Theatre back to work with the youth choirs at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth, On Wednesday, May 17, they'll all be Broadway bound when MOT artists Mark Vondrak, Karl Schmidt, Maria Cimarrelli and Betsy Bronson join the 145 young singers for a concert "Coming Home: A Celebration of Community."

At Monday evening's rehearsal, Vondrak mesmerized the youths with the magic of the choreographer as he showed them the choreography that will go along with the music Lindquist taught them earlier. Some of the students had worked with Vondrak two years ago when they performed selections from *Les Miserables*, so they wasted no time at rehearsal for the finale, an 18-minute medley from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The MOT artists will perform selections from Stephen Sondheim's

*Into the Woods* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* after the four youth choirs sing brief representations of the liturgical repertoire they rehearse and perform all year long.

"It was most enjoyable to see the fun the kids had and their responsiveness to his directions," said Lindquist, director of the children's music ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel. "And it was surprising how quickly they brought it to life. You always have to give children a model to look to. To have them stand on stage with performers of the caliber of MOT is wonderful. It raises their whole expectation and raises themselves in all that they do. The high school kids love having the opportunity to act as well as sing in these roles."

Lindquist didn't have to work too hard to prepare the students for the

What: "Coming Home: A Celebration of Community" concert features Michigan Opera Theatre artists and the children's choirs and youth chorale at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 17. Where: Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 180 Penniman, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-4532.

rehearsal with Vondrak. After all, their vocal abilities have already won them invitations to sing at Carnegie Hall, the EPICOT Center, and the International Children's Choir Festival in London and Paris in August. Lindquist's biggest challenge was funding the concert until Johnson Controls Inc. stepped in to pay for the MOT community program.

#### Community bound

Thanks to Johnson Controls' generosity the students in the Junior (third grade) and Senior Singations (grades 4-6), the Counsellor's Youth Chorale (grades 6 and up), and the CVC High School Ensemble were able to learn the finer points of musical theater from the experts at MOT. The choirs are open to students regardless of where they live or their religion. Members of the



Broadway bound: Michigan Opera Theatre artists Mark Vondrak (top left clockwise), Karl Schmidt, Betsy Bronson and Maria Cimarrelli will join the youth choirs at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church for a "Coming Home" concert.

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