

# Kahn from page C1

to explore industrial subjects such as General Motors Research, part of Aero Sturtevant's recently completed Warren Technical Center.

"Kahn's first factory in 1900 was on Second Avenue for Joseph Boyers, then he received a commission for Packard and in 1905 designed Building 10 with a reinforced concrete frame," said Carter. "Kahn worked with his brother, Julius, a U of M grad, to develop a quite innovative construction technique and he began this collaboration of working with an engineer, something that hadn't been done before."

Kahn brought different disciplines together in one practice. It is one of the elements that set him apart from architects who thumbed their noses at industrial design. This along with his enthusiasm for new materials set a course with designs which

would lead the way to the development of Modernism.

"The exhibit shows the span of Kahn's career from when he came to Detroit in 1880 and at age 14 worked in an architect's office," said Carter, who came to Michigan seven years ago to chair the U of M Architecture school. Carter previously worked for Arup Associates in London as an architect.

"Kahn worked as an architect until 1942. For the focus of exhibit, we aimed at looking at Kahn's industrial work and what was happening at the same time in art. Kahn did lots of sorts of different buildings but was influential because of his industrial designs which had such an international impact—architecture following the function. The function is a new process developed by Ford to build the 1908 Model T in Highland Park, the birthplace of the assembly line.

Because of this technological innovation it went from 728 minutes to 93 minutes to build a car."

Before long, photographs of Kahn's plants were distributed widely. The camera, which became available after the 1892 formation of Eastman Kodak Company, made it possible to document the industrial buildings. Ford took advantage of the opportunity to show the complexity and scale of production at Highland Park by establishing a photography department in his company. Sheeler, who'd seen Alfred Stieglitz's photographs of New York at a gallery Stieglitz opened, was hired to photograph the Rouge in 1927. A painter, Sheeler was immediately inspired to capture the industrial city in watercolor.

Both Sheeler's paintings and photographs of the Rouge are included in the show along with

the drawings Rivera made on location before painting the Detroit Institute of Arts murals. The contemporary photography of Kenna makes the ordinary extraordinary. Kenna uses long exposures to create dramatic night images of the Rouge.

"Artists and architects saw the work," said Carter. "People in Europe who had never seen the work, saw the work. It influenced photographers and writers. Because of Kahn's industrial work being connected to Ford Kahn was anonymous because the process of building the car was so interesting. Kahn's designs were talked about as vernacular buildings built by engineers."

"We try to reveal some of those connections to Kahn's designs. Photos of Highland Park were sent to Walter Gropius, designer in Europe in the early 1900s, and influenced the work he was

doing. Le Corbusier used them in a book. All of these were often not credited to Albert Kahn."

"The exhibit enables us to bring architecture into another context, how Albert Kahn inspired other people. We're exploring the connections between art and architecture. Sheeler's drawings of the Rouge before he did the painting. It's interesting seeing them with Kahn drawings. It's interesting seeing artists equivalents. Architecture is public art and to project it that way, it's architecture influencing art."

Original documents from work Kahn did in Russia, magazine articles and a timeline of events illustrate what was going on in the world at the same time Kahn was designing buildings, theaters and homes. A publication accompanying the exhibit with essays by Carter; Terry Smith, director of the Power Institute at

the University of Sydney, Australia; and Grant Hillstrand, author of a book on Kahn; goes into greater detail.

"We wanted to show the significance of all the work in Detroit, all worldwide. When Highland Park was built Fiat president Agnelli came from Turin to learn about the architecture."

All the world marveled at Kahn's designs in the early to mid-20th century and now he finally receives his due with "Inspiration for the Modern."

*A Gala celebrating the opening of the Albert Kahn and Ernestine Ruben exhibitions takes place Saturday, June 9. A champagne reception with Ruben and curator Brian Carter for patrons begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner, tours and dancing. Tickets are \$200. Tickets for the Gala only (including dessert buffet, tours and dancing) are \$76. Call (734) 647-2064.*

# Ruben from page C1

field Hills. Later, Marvin Eisenberg would inspire her to go on to earn a master's degree in art education at Wayne State University after she graduated with an art history degree from the University of Michigan. Both would be set aside for a time, along with her position as an art teacher for Detroit schools, while Ruben raised a family.

"At age 47 when I came back to me is that I could create my own reality," said Ruben.

"Photography is different from sculpture and painting and teaching art. It's similar to carving marble. The artist extracts what's relevant to the reality out there. Photography is good for people who's imagination flows over."

ences on Ruben's life and art was her grandfather, architect Albert Kahn, one of the founders of the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Arts and Crafts Society. Partly because of him, Ruben created photographs that have earned her major museum exhibitions in Paris and throughout Europe but not before getting her first break from Allen and Carol Rubiner at their gallery formerly located in West Bloomfield. Today, her work is represented in collections ranging from the Detroit Institute of Arts to the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

"It was his love for music and art," said Ruben. "Sharing it with him in his home and concert hall had a strong influence on me. To this day ideas still come to me in a concert hall." Or during a walk through the woods or while sitting on an airplane, she added.

Ruben seems to never let go of her reality. She exists to create the images which seem to take on a sculptural life of their own. Although her work has grown in scope and expertise over the years she's never lost sight of those early experiences which taught her life would be incomplete without art.

**Taking risks**

"I still continue to learn from mistakes and to take risks," said Ruben.

And above all, she "never really gave up painting and sculpture," two of her first loves.

"I feel much of art is autobiographical. Transcending the body and transcending the camera is what make photographic images so rich. It's what the photographer sees. It goes beyond camera."

Ruben's ability to see is what makes her images so moving for the viewer, and in so doing enhances day-to-day life. That's

the reason Tom Halsted is showing Ruben's work in an exhibition at the Halsted Gallery in Birmingham. The 36 platinum prints, featuring Ruben's series on Rodin's sculptures and European landscapes, will be installed in the gallery Saturday, June 2, and continue on exhibit through Tuesday, July 31.

Ruben will visit the gallery for a reception and book signing 4-6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23. "In Human Touch: Photographs by Ernestine Ruben" explores her place in the history of photography as well as her influences.

"She has particularly good vision when it comes to seeing unusual forms and shapes in the body," said Halsted. "She creates her own visual language. She's a beautiful printer. She has an insightful eye."

"Art should make life better each and every day," Halsted said. And he believes Ruben's does.

# DSCO from page C1

University, and another choir for a total of 350 voices. There will be four classical concerts next season at Orchestra Hall and chamber music around Detroit.

"Everywhere I'm inviting students," said Burke, who's recently been seen on television and radio programs promoting the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra. "My big message is I want to accommodate everyone's needs. I want all students to have the opportunity to perform and rub elbows with the professionals."

Seth Larson joined Civic two years ago just for the opportunity to play clarinet with the orchestra and learn from professional musicians. A graduate of North Farmington High School, Larson is a freshman in the music performance program at Wayne State University where he studies with DSO principal clarinetist Theodore Oien.

Joining Civic is part of his plan for becoming a professional musician. In the past he performed with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and the Michi-

gan Youth Orchestra at the University of Michigan. In addition to Civic, he currently plays with the Southfield Philharmonic Orchestra and Wayne State University Symphony Orchestra.

"I especially like the new mentor program where there's one paid musician in each section," said Larson, a Farmington Hills resident who played with the All State Band and Orchestra at Interlochen for the last four years. "I sit with Trevor Pittman who teaches at EMU. Being able to play in the same orchestra as him and learning from him is important to me because he really has been a mentor to me. I've learned a lot, skills and tricks of the trade."

"I've also learned a lot from the music we play. The Mahler is a major work, something children rarely ever play. It says a lot about the quality and the director of the orchestra. The Mahler is something not a lot of directors would think about playing."

**ArtCenter**  
BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD

**SUMMER TERM, 2001: July 30 - September 1**

**ART HISTORY CLASSES**  
- Post-Modern Art Primer by Dr. Richard Rubenfeld

**STUDIO CLASSES**  
- Beading  
- Ceramics - All Levels  
- Levels: 1, 2 & 3 Drawing  
- Drop in Life Drawing  
- Figure Drawing  
- Figurative Sculpture  
- Jewelry  
- Mixed Media  
- Painting: Abstract, Acrylic, Oil, Watercolor & Pastel  
- Photography  
- Woodcut and Intaglio Printmaking

**YOUTH & TEEN**  
Classes in ceramics, drawing, painting, mixed media, photography, portfolio, printmaking, sculpture, adult & child classes, and summer art camps.

1516 SOUTH CRANBROOK ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009  
www.artcenter.org  
(248) 644-2868  
Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers L102110

# For this Bloomfield Hills couple, art is legacy

BY ALICE REEHN  
STAFF WRITER

The most fitting tribute to the Detroit Institute of Arts *Formal Clothes of the Plains Indians* exhibit didn't come from its curator, or the gentleman who donated many of the works to the museum.

No, the person who paid the exhibit of early 19th century clothing its biggest compliment was the security guard who

watches over gallery N-101, also known as the Flint Gallery.

"Oh, wouldn't that look great with a pair of Levi's and black boots?" she asked.

She's right. The deerskin coat decorated with floral patterns, fringe and porcupine quills is reminiscent of the tailored coats the Beatles wore for the cover of the *St. Pepper* album.

And other coats, shirts and moccasins sport glass-beaded

embroidery, hand-painted tribal symbols and bright colors from various tribes including Crow, Cheyenne and Sioux.

Though it shows the haute couture of the time, *Formal Clothes of the Plains Indians* isn't a blockbuster exhibit. In fact, most visitors may not even venture to the north gallery where the Native American Art is on display.

But Bloomfield Hills patrons Herbert and Dorothy Graebner hope to change that.

Earlier this year, the Graebners specified an endowment for the DIA that will go specifically to broaden the space needed to

**COMPUTER EXPRESS** *Brings you*  
**Reliable Motorcoach Service to**

**CASINO WINDSOR**

DEPARTURES FROM:  
Bloomfield • Farmington • North  
Hamtramck • Madison Heights • Southfield

**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY**  
**\$50** per person (including \$15.00 Meal Voucher or \$10.00 in coins)

**Call 1-800-290-2957**

Service provided by Computer Express and is not affiliated with Casino Windsor. Bookings of the Casino Library and Casino Corporation and other fees.

show more of the Native American art collection. Right now, it's estimated that only one percent of the museum's Native American holdings are actually on display.

Herbert Graebner became interested in Native American art about a dozen years ago.

They later found that one of the major contributors to the exhibition titled *Art of The American Frontier: The Chandler/Pohrt Collection* was Richard Pohrt, a Flint native who now lives in Ann Arbor.

"Richard Pohrt is one of the nation's foremost collectors of Plains Indians art," said David Penney, the DIA's chief curator and curator of the Native American art.

Herbert remains humble about the acknowledgment. "Certainly our gift means something, but it's the amazing fellow that put this collection together that deserves the credit."

**DON'T MISS THE HOME OPENER!**

**DETROIT SHOCK VS 4-TIME WNBA CHAMPION HOUSTON COMETS**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2 • 7:30 PM**  
Bring Your Kids to the Shockfest Pregame Festivities - Starting at 5:30 PM

**FLEXBOOKS - \$180 VALUE FOR ONLY \$99**  
This package includes 12 Detroit Shock tickets for only \$99. You have the flexibility of when and how to use your tickets.

**HOOPS**

**INDIVIDUAL GAME TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**WIN! Rhonda, the Rock and Roll Doll**

If you can answer the three questions listed below, call Crazy Al's Radio Party (1460 AM) on a Monday at 8 a.m., and answer two more questions on the air.

You could win Rhonda, the Rock and Roll Doll

**Call 248-332-1460**

1. The Marvellettes sang about a postal worker; name the song.
2. Brenda Lee was nicknamed Little Miss whiff
3. The Stirelles asked the question, will you still love me

**Crazy Al's Radio Party**  
Truly the greatest rock and roll show you've ever heard!  
LISTEN TO RARE ROCK AND ROLL ON  
**WPON Radio Oldies 1460 AM**  
Oldies You Just Don't Hear Any Place Else!  
Crazy Al's Radio Party Mon.-Fri. 6-9 a.m., afternoons 2-4 p.m.  
LISTEN ON THE WEB www.wpon.com

**DETROIT SHOCK**

**DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES**

**with CHRIS ZITO**

**THIS WEDNESDAY • 7:30 PM**  
**ON SALE NOW**

**Never miss a genuine opportunity.**