

ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 36261 Scholcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279.

ARTIST OPENING

Meet Canton artist Jim Isakson at a reception for the opening of his exhibit 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 at Workbench Contemporary Furniture, 410 North Fourth, Ann Arbor. The display is part of the Ann Arbor Art Center's Exhibitions on Location Program. For information, call (734) 994-8004, ext. 104.

Metamorphic Transmission, a one-man show of his pointillist paintings, continues to Aug. 12 in Ann Arbor. The collection features new, recent and earlier work. Isakson's love of nature shines through the precise dots of paint that capture natural forms in abstract style. A graduate of Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, Isakson uses vibrant colors and swirling shapes to show spiritual energy and movement that is prevalent in nature.

WRITERS READING

Seven writers from southeastern Michigan and two from Canada will read their winning entries in the Detroit Women Writer's-sponsored Detroit Tri-centennial Writing Competition 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 at the Plymouth District Library, 223 South Main.

To register for the program, call (734) 453-0760, press 4.

Writers competed in the categories of poetry, short story, and creative non-fiction. Among the winners are Bloomfield Hills resident Kathleen Walsh Spencer, and Robin Gaines and Shirley Weimar of Northville. Kathleen Ripley Lee, a Northville author and project coordinator, will



Artists Through the Years: This watercolor by Jack Olds is one of the works in an exhibit by past and present Livonia Arts commissioners.

introduce the winners. Leo, Alicia Elster, Barry Knister and Virginia Parker judged the competition as members of Detroit Women Writers, an organization composed of men and women dedicated to encouraging writing of the highest professional standards.

OPENING RECEPTION

The photographic work of Brian Watkins, a 1972 Plymouth-Salem High School graduate, will be featured in a memorial show at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 North Sheldon at Junction. An opening reception is scheduled for 3-5 p.m. Sunday, July 15.

Watkins, who worked several years as a photo editor for The Crain, was well known in the Plymouth area for his photographs and striking black and

white photo etchings.

After his death two years ago, a former teacher and friend, Barbara Masters, decided to publish a small folio of Watkins work to commemorate his talent and raise money for the education of his daughter Jessica Trienky. The folio, which was assembled with the help of a number of Watkins' friends, will be for sale at the arts council on the day of the reception. After that, copies will be available at Frameworks in downtown Plymouth.

For more information, call the arts council at (734) 416-4278.

ARTISTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Past and present Livonia Arts Commissioners continue to show their work through Tuesday, July 31 in the Fine Arts Gallery at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road.

Variety best describes the paintings, ceramics and sculpture in *Artists Through the Years*. Dedicated to the memory of Marie Tuthill, the exhibit features florals and country landscapes by the late Livonia resident who was one of the found-

ing members of the arts commission as well as an award winning painter.

Cliff Dwellers by Robert Sheridan take viewers to another time and place with its long blue and earth-colored architecture. Sara Dickens makes a room seem surreal by placing a peach in an out-of-the-ordinary place. The focal point keeps the eye moving and the viewer wondering what it means.

Barbara Stewart's painting gives color to the staid white Livonia landmark known as Bates Hamburgers while Billie Thompson's watercolors vibrate with reds and oranges. Electra Stamelos goes large scale with her paintings which include a bug-eaten cabbage intricate with detail. Subtlety is the key word when describing Jo Griffing Witt's blue collage of butterflies. Depending on your taste, there's something here for everyone although not all of the work is for sale.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and until 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday. For more information, call (734) 468-2536.

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Mynton Marshall, artistic director

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Sunday, January 27, 3 p.m.

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