Made in Michigan

PCCA invitational celebrates area's best

BY ALICE RHEIN STAFF WRITER arhein@oc.homecomm.net

When John Cynar, exhibition curator for the Paint Creek Cen-ter for the Arts in Rochester, said that the Made in Michigan exhibit is composed of new works, he wasn't kidding.

works, he wash t kidding.
Marie Wo of West Bloomfield
finished firing her clay sculpture
just in time to make it onto the
first floor gallery wall for the
opening reception which took
place on a pleasantly warm Friday evening last month.

"Fresh air, fresh art, fresh paint, we had everything," said Cynar, referring to the exhibit's opening night.

opening night.

In past years, the center sponsored Celebrate Michigan Artists, a juried exhibit which drew artists from across the state. But Cynar was finding that it wasn't attracting artists that he knew were working hard in their field. So instead of a juried exhibit, Cynar and the PCCA staff deeided to host an invitational, inviting artists who have been very active in the past few years.

LIVONIA

"This is a major showcase of Michigan artists," said Cynar. "We're looking to make it an every other year event."

There are 58 artists represent-ed on the first floor and main gallery. The original number was supposed to be 50, but Cynar said it was just too hard to eliminate some.

Many of the names are staples in the Detroit art scene including the formidable glass artist Herb Babcock and abstract painter Gilda Snowden.

"We wanted to showcase new talent, but also show artists that have been established," said Cynar.

The result is an eclectic mix of artists who are known and unknown, and works that are both familiar and obtuse.

"I am a firm believer that if you don't look good in the first four seconds, you've lost your audience," said Cynar. So in hanging the exhibit, he took great pains to make the arrange-ment feel fresh, yet organized.

Sandra Cardew's Fertility Gown is poised at the center of everything like a gracious host-ess. The Royal Oak artist uses

Made in Michigan

What: Made in Michigan Invitational, at Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester When: Now through Sept. 22 Where: Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine Street, Rochester Hourst Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Telephone: (248) 651-4110.

mainly found materials, and in this design, she's incorporated an elaborate feather train.

an elaborate feather train.

The thick oil panels of Robert
Mirek contrast the delicate
paper sculpture of Ann Arbor
artist Takeshi Takahara. And
perched near the front desk is Jo
Powers' Portrait of a Singer,
which seems to be observing
everyone who is bustling in and
out of the center. And being that
the Art & Apples Pestival, a ben
elif for the PCCA, is on the horizon, there's plenty of activity to
watch. watch

watch. Tucked in the far corner upstairs, the life-like eyes of John Woodward's sculpture keeps watch over overything. The Rochester artist is known for his "giant head" sculptures that he paints with landscapes or, in this case, a scene entitled Downtown.

"His work is always well-received, and I love how he's from this town," said Cynar, not-ing that the Detroit Institute of Arts has acquired one of Wood-ward's sculptures.

And whether it was intentional or not, Woodward's Downtown cleverly faces Marilyn Zimmerman's photographs of downtown on Woodward Avenue.

on Woodward Avenue.

Zimmerman, a Detroit artist
and instructor at Wayne State
University, researched photos of
turn-of-the-century Detroit (that
would be the 1900s), and used
the image to create a side-byside modern-day version of the
historical print. The Girl Friends
series shows two umbrella-toting
women on Woodward near
Detroit's Central United
Methodist Church.

In addition to containing a mix of artists, Made in Michigan con-

tains a mix of mediums. Photography is well-represented with Zimmerman, Royal Oak artist John Ganis, and Troy photographer Laurie Tennent.

Sculpture is in many varieties
from Eric Mesko's Empire
State Building made from found
art to Bloomfield Hills artist
Joseph Wesner's cast aluminum vessels inspired by time spent in China.

The vivid landscapes of Bever-ly Hills artist Lucille Procter Nawara and St. Charles artist Gerald Moore add a lush feel to the gallery.

But where this exhibit really shines is in its mixed media works. Lathrup Village artist Nancy Thayer weighs in with a piece from her Ordered Earth Views scries. The gorgeous abstract incorporates steel and warm, rich earth tones.

Farmington Hills artist Wendy MacGaw offers her steel and glass sculpture entitled Margins, and Pleasant Ridge artist Joyce

Brienza uses bits of lace and fabric in her whimsical oil painting Complimentary Cats.

"I have a category for what I call maninc artists. They look at every detail and every object," said Cynar.

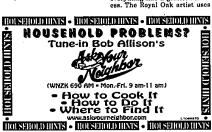
said Cynar.

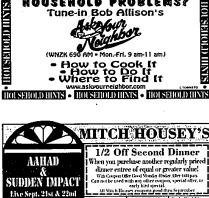
Brienza falls into this category, as does Cardew. But the artist who takes it to the extreme is Christine Hagedorn of Troy. Solace is an assembled cance about four feet in length adorned with an orderly presentation of tea bags, nails, feathers, sitcks, buttons, coins, needles and pins.

*Sho's worked is coint.

"She's worked in paint and as a performance artist, and now she's been doing these boats for awhile," said Cynar. "She's found a way to bring together all her artistic abilities."

And with the Made in Michigan invitational, which runs until Sept. 22, the PCCA has found a way to showcase the works of some of the finest Michigan artists working today.







(734) 425-5520 BANQUET FACILITIES AVAILABLE









See the All-New 130™ Edition!

Buy Now For Best Seats!

Wed. OCT. 3 THRU Sun. OCT. 7 . Toe Louis Arena

Wed. OCT. 3 ★ 7:00 PM **OPENING NIGHT**

7 00 PM 8 00 PM 5 00 PM

Buy tickets at www.ringling.com esotoe transfer Ticket Centers Including Fox Theater, Harmony House and Marshall F Arena Box Office or call (248) 645-6666

> For Information call (313) 983-6606 Groups (313) 471-3099

TICKET PRICES: 10.00 - \$15.00 - \$17.50 - \$30.00 VIP Bervice charges and handling from may apoly: no service charges at Annes Box Offica)

Come one hour early to



Enter to Win Ringling Bros, and Barnum Bailey Ticket Vouchers! Check Today's Classified Section to See How You Can Enter to Win!

> Observer 🞖 Eccentric It's all about you!