

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA CHOMIN

All-star quintet plays Michigan Jazz Festival benefit

Dan Jordan isn't worried about rehearsing for a Father's Day Jazz Brunch at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. After all, the Troy bassist is playing with a group of seasoned musicians he's worked with for many years.

Every Wednesday night, three of the five — Southfield pianist Matt Michaels, Farmington Hills drummer Jerry McKenzie and Jordan — perform

several sets as the Matt Michaels Trio at Ron's Fire-side Inn in Westland.

Both of the other quintet members — trumpeter Johnny Trudell and saxophonist Larry Nozaro — frequently guest with the trio.

For the last eight years, Jordan played first with Jack Brokenbush then with Michaels. Before that he was in the house band at Baker's Key-board Lounge in the 1960s and 70s laying down the beat for legends like Nancy Wilson and Sonny Stitt.

"I can't say what we'll be playing at brunch because it's not easy to rehearse with all of us being so busy," said Jordan. "That's part of the charm. We're improvising so it will be fresh. For the five of us music is a passion. We've played together before. I've known Matt Michaels since 1958 when he was playing at the Caucus Club and I was at the London Chop House down the street. We know each other well enough we should be able to do it completely professionally."

McKenzie couldn't agree more and he's worked with the best. In the late 1950s and early 1970s, he did two tours with Stan Kenton then many more with Glenn Miller and Jimmy Dorsey. The highlight of those years was winning back-to-back Grammy awards with Kenton for *West Side Story* and *Adventures in Jazz*, both on Capitol Records.

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Please see CHOMIN, B2



Seasoned musician: Dan Jordan lays down the beat for an all-star quintet playing a Father's Day brunch to benefit the Michigan Jazz Festival.



Sculptor takes clay to new heights

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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"Everyone has a dark side," says Mark Chatterley as he glances around at the sculpture in the Plymouth Community Arts Council gallery.

Visitors might agree if Chatterley were showing his usual haunting figures but two of the largest clay works in this exhibition bring a smile. In the lobby a six-foot tall crow seems maternally with a dozen smaller birds at its feet. Inside the gallery, a five-foot-tall blue dog begs children of all ages for a hug.

At first look, the light-hearted autobiographical pieces literally dominate his one man show. *Textures: New Work*, continuing through June 8, Chatterley is pushing the limits as he always does, this time with scale. It's no wonder he goes through 16,000 pounds of clay a year.

Then the eye catches a glimpse of another facet of the artist. Dozens of birds peek at a larger than life figure in the *Gathering of Crows*.

"The figure behind the crows is sort of a self portrait," said Chatterley. "I started doing crows because they've been hanging around the house. They dive bomb you when you walk out of the house. When I put the monster crow outside, it scared them all away."

Chatterley admits he probably should have given some thought to scale before attempting the bird. As always his sense of humor is keen when speaking about the clay art.

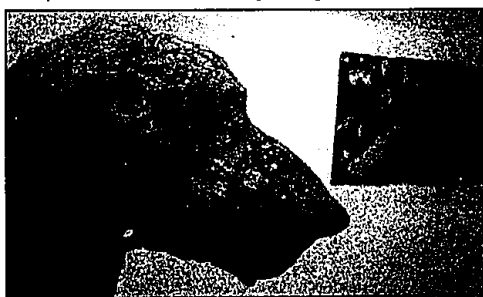
"The crow in the lobby it took two football players from the high school to help me load it into the kiln," said Chatterley. "It takes 200 gallons of propane per piece to fire. The clay is made in Detroit from my formula and doesn't shrink a lot."

The hard part for the dog was just getting it in the kiln which is the size of a small car. The big blue dog is my studio dog Snoopy who watches me work hour after hour. I had a model so I made him."

Chatterley often draws on the situations surrounding him that and his readings. *Spirit Form* is reminiscent of totems, in this case stacked with bird-like figures. Chatterley's work is recognizable by his signature brown and blue glazes. He adds silicon carbide and sand to the formula which makes it bubble like lava when fired. The result is a crater-like texture that makes the work look as if



Size counts: Mark Chatterley reaches for the sky with this six foot tall crow (above), while viewers of all ages will want to hug this five-foot tall dog (below) by Chatterley. In the background is one of the artist's latest wall tile paintings.



dug from an archaeological site.

"I'm inspired by elements of my life, quantum physics, and repeating forms," said Chatterley. "I'm trying to explain what it is to be human, spiritually, emotionally. The *Spirit Form* I was thinking about Shamanic practices, the dream world and spirit world and soul. These figures are menacing with the beaks. These things could protect themselves. I like the duality, the nice and not so nice."

Birds return to Chatterley's work again and again. Several years ago, he was selling wheel thrown birdzoid sculptures at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fairs, the most prestigious of the three shows. Chatterley began his career as a potter creating large-scale

raku works with figures decorating the exteriors. He will talk about the early as well as new work at an ArtReach Luncheon Friday, June 7, at the arts council.

"People ask me, 'so once you've made the biggest crows what's next? I'll probably go back to stacking figures. Why figures? When I was going to school Abstract Expression was at its height so you have to reject your teachers' work."

Even before earning a bachelor and master of fine arts at Michigan State University, Chatterley was learning to draw the figure at the arts council. Showing his work there is like coming full circle for the Williamston artist who grew up in Plymouth.

"I began taking art classes at the arts council 26-years ago then my teacher, Richard Saunders at Plymouth Salem High School, got me hooked on clay," said Chatterley.

That was more than 20-years ago. Chatterley's been doing clay professionally ever since in his Williamston studio surrounded by 13-acres of grounds filled with his sculptures. Many days this prolific artist rises at

Please see SCULPTOR, B2

Textures, New Work

What: Artist Mark Chatterley exhibits large-scale sculpture and figurative tile paintings

When: Through Saturday, June 8

Where: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 North Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth

Meet the artist: Chatterley gives a retrospective slide presentation and talk as part of the ArtReach Luncheon series 11:30 a.m. Friday, June 7. Tickets, \$15. Includes lunch. For tickets, call (734) 416-4278

EXHIBIT

Art fairs tempt visitors all summer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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It's the start of the art fair season and Joyce Kuretsky couldn't be in a better mood. Maybe that's why the West Bloomfield watercolorist has been dubbed the happy painter. She's almost gleeful when talking about showing her "abstracts based on realism" at more than a dozen fairs this summer including Livonia's Arts &

Crafts Festival Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9, at Greenmead Historical Village, Newburgh south of Eight Mile. For information, call (734) 468-2536.

But Kuretsky's no exception. Hundreds of artists around the area are excitedly preparing to sell their wares at outdoor shows in Rochester, West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills, Plymouth, Ann Arbor, Franklin, and Birmingham. Each has its own

charm.

The 28th annual Livonia festival features Ecuadorian and New Age music, puppet shows and hands-on art activities for children along with 140 artists from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Tours of the village's historic homes and churches offer the opportunity to step back to a time when the horse and buggy gave real

Please see ART FAIRS, B3



Livonia Arts Festival: Bethany Adams of Westland shows her lampworked beads at Greenmead Historical Village.