## Fine art at Meadow Brook

## Grounds a beautiful setting for variety of media

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

homin@or.homecomm.net Donna Beaubien thinks she knows what it takes to produce an arts festival. The Troy artist has exhibited abstracts created from

exhibited abstracts created from hundrade paper at over a hundred shows since taking a class at Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester in the late 1989a. So when the Creative Arts Council and Palace Sports & Entertainment teamed up to present a new festival at Meadow Brook last summer, Beaubien wanted to be part of drawing thousands of art lovers not only the first time but for years to come. for years to come.

Beaubien's been successful at

this sort of thing before. For 17 years she served as artist coordina-

Fine Art at Meadow Brook
What: For a second year, the grounds of Meadow Brook become
outdoor gallery for more than 130 artists working in a variety of 2and 3-D media
When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 22 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ndgy, June 23

When: 10 a.m. to p.m. sauries, some and the campus of Oekland University, Rochester
Admission: Admission is one doller with proceeds going to the local chapter of Literacy Volunteers of America. For information, call

tor for the Birmingham Arts Festival held by the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center every spring. This summer's outdoor art fair season is especially busy for Beaubien, who sold her first framed works in Grecktown in May, but she's made time to head

up the second annual Fine Art at Meadow Brook Music Festivul Saturday-Sunday, June 22-23 in Rochester. As coordinator of the event she's been running around town wrapping up last minute details. Bringing in 136 artists requires organization. Decisions

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have to be made on where to place all of the painters, sculptors, cerumists, jewelers, glass blowers, and photographers selected for the juried art fair.

Beaubien's built other attractions into the art feeting as well. Two weeks ago she dropped off 1,000 postcards at the Dotroot Institute of Arts which will have a booth there. During the fair, now members receive a 20 percent discount plus two tickets to upcoming special exhibitions including Deges and the Dance Oct. 20 to Jan. 12.

Meandow Brook is a beautiful location. The artists booths what did in and out of the garden, and the hills.

"Meadow Brook is a beautiful location. The artists boths wind in and out of the garden, and the hills add to the ambiance," said Beaubien, who exhibite in St. Clair and Ann Arbor before concluding the year irdoors at the Holiday Art Fair at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills Nov. 2-3.

"The DIA will have a booth to recruit membership. We'll have a student booth featuring metal-smithing and wood furniture from College for Creative Studies to help young people get started.

"I'm excited about many of the artists. I'm excited about many of the artists. I'm excited about nany of the artists. I'm excited about man feature of Ypsilanti who does digital prints. Photographer Jan Raulins gears his work to the arca he's showing in and will have images that relate to Detroit including the Red Wings."

Documenting South Africa

Documenting South Africa

Documenting South Africa Clifford Charles brings his oil paintings on canvas and paper all the way from Johannesburg. Charles came to Rochester a cuple of wecks ago to visit his sister and decided to try his hand at exhibiting in art fairs. He's been painting professionally and displaying work at galleries and cultural centers since graduating with a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Witwatersrand in 1987. "I'm inspired by life in South Africa, how people heal themselves and the difficult journey we make through life. It's a struggle not just political but to make meaning in life," said Charles. "My paintings are a contemplative place embracing beauty and anxiety of life. "I'm documenting life there to start encouraging people that art does have a role to play in society. To feed the soul we need other forms of nourishment."

Charles finds satisfaction by working through the arts with dis-

Charles finds satisfaction by working through the arts with dis-advantaged communities, mentally challenged children, women's

groups, and trade unions,
"Child abuse is a big problem. "Child abuse is a big problem. We use the arts to open up topics of expression," said Charles. "Johannesburg is like any big major city now. We have casinos and large buildings and it's fast maced."

paced."

Talking to Myself deals with the idea of dualism and the overthrow

of apartheid, something that did not happen overnight in South Africa. Africa. Africa fair. They selected her "It's people's desire to separate Fulani Rudraksha Seed necklace

African Inspiration: Dorothy Jett-Carter created this cape (above) with contemporary fabrics from Senegal. Clifford Charles uses oil paint (below) to capture the

not nappen overnight in South Africa.

"It's people's desire to separate themselves from themselves," said Charles. "It is drawing on the uncomfortable notion that we need to be connected to ourselves and the world around us. It was inspired by living in constant struggle mode in South Africa, rading separation and division, and the reality of a new South Africa, that we only have one country and we are as much a part of the other person as they are part of us. It is a hard lesson yet we have inspirational leadership.

"I'm excited about the chance meet and talk with people (at the art fair). It's an eagerness, but I'm cautious about how they'll accept my work." to be connected to ourselves and

vibrancy of South African people.

Returning artist

Dorothy Jett-Carter expects visi-tors to find her capes, throws, eth-nically-inspired jewelry, and bead-ed bags as fashionable as they did

Fulani Rudraksha Seed necklare to tour with People, Plants and Cultures II.

Jett-Carter began designing clothing with African textiles during her student days at Cass Technical High School. But the Oak Park resident isn't the only one in the family with talent. Her husband Rod Carter will show fine art photography. One of bis images, My Land, which shows a woman working in the field, is also included in the ArtsLeague of Michigan's touring exhibition.

ed in the ArtsLeague of Michigan's touring exhibition.

"The capes and throws are made from contemporary fabrics from Senegal," said Jett-Carter. "I layer fabrics on the edges then pull the threads and add beading. The small hand made bags are frommud cloth with traditional hand painted patterns depending on tribe. For the jewelry I learned beading from women in the Welof tribe in Senegal."

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