Growing through art

Hermitage Gallery draws on the masters

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WATTER

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The Hermitage Gallery's come
a long way in the seven years
since owners Gindy and Don
Wolmpulu kopened with the idea
of showing copies of the masters.
The recreations sold so quickly
they had to expand the initial
concept to include 19th century
paintings and works by contemporary gitists who capture life as
it was 100 years ago.
The addition of the 19th centur
y galleries three years ago

it was 190 years ago.
The addition of the 19th century galleries three years ago brought the total space to 10,000 square feet. From Little Lord Fauntelroy by Pierre August Cet, signed, and dated 1881 in an original-frame, to The Locemaker by Charles-Amable Leneir born in 1861, the works paint a pieture of an era when people proceeded at a more leisurely pace. The majority of work in the gallery sets that tone regardless of subject matter. French artist JalinePol W. uses vibrant red and yellow in a flowery field scene. Rivers rush through an Alpinel landscape by Josef Thoma. A painting of Indians on horseback and Remington recasts recall America's wild frontier.

"When we first opened we had 100 paintings and now we have over 500 pieces," said Cindy Wolenchuk, "it's 19th and 20th century art, contemporary - Barese from Scolon Can Young artis.

Wolanchuk. 118 18th and 20th century art, contemporary - Bar-bera from Spain, Cao Yong origi-nally from China, Pino (Dangeli-co) from Italy, and American Thomas Arvid.

Stepping back in time: Three years ago Hermitage Gallery addød 19th century art galleries. "Mostly we're a traditional gallery but occasionally we have a show of Robert Lebron's work. Ho's a palette knife painter who does turn of the century street scenes of places like Wall Street. The street scenes, people like to decorate with them. It reminds them of a kinder gentler time." Searching for art to showcase in the gallery takes time. Wolanchuk spent two weekends in a row in New York in March. After returning home she had to have a lateral file built. An extensive collection of paintings

extensive collection of paintings now fill the drawers. "We've always loved art and had a collection at home," said Wolanchuk, "We have a passion

had a collection at home," said Wolanchuk. "We have a passion for it."

Gazing around the gallery leaves the visitor with a peaceful feeling. From a few hundred dollars to The Lacemaker at \$500.000, visitors can take home a work that brings pleasure. Like animals and children? Best Friends tuckes the heart with its little girl and a dog, his head resting on her shoulder – as does a girl with a Saint Bernard in the style of Elsley. A study of elephanta by Luenge, zebra by Remi Bourquin offer the opportunity to take a trip around the world while sitting at home. But it's not all paintings. There is some sculpture here at the Hermitage. Thomas Kuebler's Curley, a lifelike butler, stands in the midst of the paintings over one hundred years old.



New direction: Cindy Wolanchuk sits in front of one of the contemporary works by JalinePol W. at Hermitage Gallery in Rochester.

1919, suit of armor from Spain, and Mario Jason's lyrical dancers in bronze add to the mix. More contemporary is Qama's acrylic sculpture of a polar bear standing on an icy precipic.

"Art's very personal," said Wolanchuk. "They should love it should be affordable, and they should have an idea about where to place it. The 19th century paintings are all documented and we have a guarantee that people can return any of the art for full credit.

"We take pictures of everything we sell so if they come back a year later and say we need something we can pull it

Nominations sought for arts supporters

Do you know someone who's contributed to arts and culture in Michigan?
ArtServe Michigan wants to hear about artists, educators, civic leaders, organizations and others who've made outstanding local, regional or statewide contributions. The not-for-profit organization is seeking nominations for its annual Governors' Awards for Arts & Culture. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, July 16. For more information, call Kim Adoms at (248) 537-8288, Ext. 17.
Celebrating 17-years of rec-

information, call xim Adams at (248) 557-8288, Ext. 17. Celebrating 17-years of recognizing cultural excellence in Michigan, the Governors Awards program is ArtServe's major annual fundraiser. ArtServe builds support for the arts, artists and cultural activities among citizens of Michigan through advocacy, education and services. The awards ceremony and galo takes place 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. Categories include the Inter-

national Achievement Award given to a resident who has achieved international prominence in the arts. Michigan's Artist, for a working artist who has consistently made an impact on his artistic discipline, Cultural Organization (up to three) for outstanding contributions regionally and statewide, Emerging Artist notes exceptional talent and potential, Civic Leader for advancing and supporting arts and culture in his community or across Michigan, Arts in Education to an institution of individual providing extraordinary leadership and creativity in advancing arts and culture ducation in Michigan schools, and the Business Honor Roll Award for a business or corporation that has given extraordinary support to artists or cultural organizations regionally or statewide.

or statewide.

For more information about ArtServe Michigan, call (248) 557-8288 or visit the Web site at www.artservemichigan.org.





Concert pianist Marina Arsenjivic will perform 2-3 p.m. Sunday, July 14 at Hammell Musics Bloomfield Hills Showroom. A Continental brunch precedes the concert is part of the pain journalists, Marina's music reflects p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$15 per couple, call (248) 594-1414, Ext. 9109.

Marina, a Southfield resident, won the "Popularity Oscar" in Yugoslavia in 1996,







