

## ART FAIR

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room, I'm never depressed because they show you who they are. Their personalities come right out."

DeLater does portrait studies of dogs in the home, at the park or wherever they feel comfortable — the same with children or brides and grooms. She'll travel nearly anywhere to capture the essence of a subject. Her images of flowers are another matter. DeLater shoots for a painterly quality to portray their softness.

"I thought, how can I photograph flowers differently? So I placed a rose in a container filled with water and then froze it. I try to use natural light with all my work and have even used mint in my garden for a diffused green background. My biggest compliment is when people see this, is to say that it looks like a painting."

DeLater likes giving compliments as well as receiving them. Her praise for Art on the Franklin shouldn't be taken lightly. DeLater will do eight art fairs this season, some as far away as Chicago. It was there she won Best 2-D Art in the Ella Fine Arts Show in June. This is her second year showing in the Franklin fair.

"It's the atmosphere," said DeLater. "It's nice because it's big and open with lots of shade and it feels like fall. I grew up in Oxford on 15 acres and it's very refreshing."

Peggy Kerr grew up in Franklin so it's no surprise she loves the community as well. As president of the Franklin Council of Visual and Performing Arts, she takes special pride in the intimate show on the Village Green.

"People love the setting. They bring their kids in strollers. It's a family friendly event," said Kerr, who volunteers any time away from her position as special programs director at The Community House in Birmingham to the Franklin arts council. "In the early years, the first couple shows were in October with 45 artists. We're now at the maximum. We want to keep it small so it's not overwhelming. People can park and walk. For someone for whom it's hard to get around it's doable, and the Franklin Cider Mill's right there."

In addition to being a great way to start fall, visitors will go home feeling good about being able to help others. The non-profit arts council donates profits from booth and jurying fees to The Community House scholarship for summer art camp, Haven, Child Abuse & Neglect Council, VSA arts of Michigan, and others.

"We do believe in giving back," said Kerr, "and we don't take a commission from artists. We have a family of artists who are with us every year. People who leave and come back, new people coming from out of state. Having people come from



Ginger DeLater captures the playfulness of puppies through the lens of her camera.

out of state for a one-day show is a compliment."

Maybe it's the festivities of the 56th annual Labor Day parade beginning at noon at Evelyn Court and Franklin Road just south of the Franklin Cider Mill that adds to the fun. Or the art fair entertainment. One-man band Rennie Kaufmann plays show tunes while Blackman and Arnold take the energy level a notch lower with folk and acoustic music. Kids can make bookmarks, bracelets, collage or try their hand at painting a T-shirt designed by VSA arts of Michigan student Katie Wise. VSA provides art and music therapy programming for children and adults with disabilities.

"We'll have pottery demonstrations by Mia Perlman, a Groves High School art teacher, and for a third year a booth with 2002 Groves graduates Jeff Pulker and Cass Higden. We want them to have that experience as artists — to say here's your opportunity to sell your work."

It seems the Franklin arts council is always trying to brighten someone's day. In addition to hosting art projects for children during the annual Holly Day in Franklin, this summer they produced the first Music on the Green concert series in July.

"I grew up in Franklin. They used to have the Strawberry Social," said Kerr. "Now there's this new life being breathed into the city."

"We're (the arts council) small and we don't have an office but we hope to expand the music series next year."

But don't wait until then to enjoy the fruit of the arts council's efforts. In addition to DeLater, fair goers are sure to enjoy the whimsical animal sculptures of G. Todd Vaughan, printmaking by Michael McCullough (Farmington Hills), glass by Andrew Madvin (West Bloomfield), and raku by Birmingham Groves graduate Ed Risak, to name a few.

"It's fine art that you might not typically see at a craft fair," said Kerr. "Sometimes people come looking for a gift. We're looking for a range of prices so everyone can feel they can walk away with something. Most of the people who come, come to buy. They don't have another

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media. Earlier this summer her work intrigued crowds in Greentown and at the Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair. Like Arts, Beats & Eats organizers, Bagnasco sees herself as evolving.

"My work is collage using vintage photos and found objects and are based on stories or quotes. They have messages about core values that people believe in and that people can live by," said Bagnasco, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1987 then went on to work in design and illustration before turning to fine art two years ago. "I use old shutters for frames, old keys, pieces of wood and trim from flea markets, salvage yards and antique stores. It's kind of like improvisation with the found objects. It gives you inspiration. It gives a surreal feel."

"I like Arts, Beats & Eats because it's an upbeat, urban setting with the music and different foods. It has a lot of energy."

Bagnasco's art is typical of works shown in the festival.

Art director Lisa Konikow looks for creativity and overall quality of craftsmanship. The Bloomfield Township resident knows art. She used to man-

"We started with 100 artists and in a few short years have earned a reputation as the 23rd best fine art show in the nation by Sunshine Artist magazine."

Lisa Konikow  
Art director

age the former Xochipilli gallery in Birmingham. "We had over 900 artists apply from across the U.S. and Canada," said Konikow. "It's a juried fine arts show featuring ceramics, painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, digital art, fabric/fiber, glass, wood, graphics, printmaking, jewelry (precious and non-precious metal), and mixed media (2-D and 3-D)."

The \$10,000 in awards drew some of the best local artists as well including Stan Megdall (glass), Barbara and Ernest Abel (photography) and Susan Cobb (fabric/fiber) of West Bloomfield; Donna Benablen (mixed media) Troy; Adam Shirley (Jewelry) Birmingham, and William Theyer (photography) Redford. Kalamazoo artist Lewis Tardy is sure to stop crowds with his large-scale

sculptures made from automobile parts and welded steel. "When I'm excited I'm thrilled," said Konikow. "I've been here since the inception. We've streamlined what we do. We have package pickup for patrons. We started with 100 artists and in a few short years have earned a reputation as the 23rd best fine art show in the nation by Sunshine Artist magazine."

Lori Witz is just as determined to earn a reputation for "a professional sound and different styles of music." She found up and coming artists like Southfield jazz flutist Althea Rene (see related story).

"We have six stages including the Farmer Jack stage for kids," said Lori Witz, music coordinator. "We try to keep it separate. The Flagstar Bank stage is rock, jazz and country. Pepsi is all types of rock, Miller Lite is blues, r & b with some jazz. Anti-Defamation League is all acoustic music. Dodge is Latin to country."

Donnie Van Zant and 38 Special bring new music as well as old favorites like *Hold on Loosely* and *Caught Up in You* to the Flagstar Bank stage 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31. They've been on a whirlwind tour since February crisscrossing the nation. Van Zant took a few min-

utes from a stop in Alaska to talk about the new CD 38 Special is recording in their Atlanta, Ga. studio.

"We have 8-tracks together already," said Van Zant. "It's a rock n' roll record. We wanted something that was up in your face. We wanted to get back to it."

"It's been a very busy year. We released *A Wild Eyed Christmas Night* with traditional music and four originals at the end of 2001, did a Warner Bros. tribute CD for Hank Williams, and recorded a sound track to *Super Troopers*, a movie about troopers with an attitude."

Not bad for a band celebrating its 27th anniversary. While others have come and gone, 38 Special keeps rolling on. After it finishes this tour in October, it records and then it's back on the road in February. Van Zant said he draws his energy from the crowd especially on nights like this one in Alaska. After spending 7 1/2 hours on the plane and another two in the car, the group hits the stage ready to rock.

"We're some busy old guys," said Van Zant. "We'll keep playing as long as we keep having fun."

"We invite everyone to come out. I guarantee they'll leave with a smile on their face."

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