

# John Glick: Involved in a dialogue with clay

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON—"I see myself as being totally involved in a dialogue with clay. I believe in an exploration that must continue...looking for that thing that I cannot easily describe to myself, let alone to another. And so, life becomes one endless blending of discovery, joy and inevitable despair as ideas are conceived, developed and torn apart on the way to somewhere. That is how John Glick describes his art, and his relationship with it. Glick, a Farmington resident, is a full time potter. His studio and gallery, the Plum Tree Pottery are on the same lot as his home, a green farm house with black shutters, on 10 Mile Rd.

HIS IS the kind of life style many envy, but few have the courage to try, or the talent to maintain. However, the life as he describes it is not the perfect, care-free life most people envision when they think of an artist working out of his own studio. Along with the satisfaction and gratification that comes with being totally involved in something creative and enjoyable there are the hassles and problems that face other people in more common walks of life. Glick is currently writing a book for would-be professional potters, in which he attempts to tell them what is involved in the type of life style he maintains. As he tells it there is more involved to it than just finding a place and delving into the art form; there are things to be considered like insurance coverage, both for the studio, and the artist himself; to insure an income in case of temporary or permanent disability. He must also consider zoning ordinances in the areas he chooses to work, accessibility to the market place, availability of raw materials and retirement plans, things Glick says the artist must learn to deal with in a businesslike manner.

"WHEN A PERSON becomes a full time artist he does not escape any of the problems other human beings are faced with," he said with a smile. "Although our life style may be more satisfying to us, we are still faced with the everyday human being problems."

"People have the idea that if you are your own man, if you're working for yourself, that you can take it easy, if you want. Actually I think if you have to answer only to yourself you push yourself a little harder."

His book also deals with inter-family relationships, and the strains that may be placed on the family when the artist becomes so involved with his work that he does not spend as much time with his family as he would like.

"At times life can be a non-stop series of distractions," he said. "There is a certain tension which exists when I find myself wanting to enjoy my interest in other things, but still want to retain my work habits. When I'm away from the studio there is always the feeling that I should be there, not only because I want to be, but also because I feel a responsibility for earning the money for my family."

Glick graduated from Wayne State University in 1960 and earned his masters degree from Cranbrook University in 1962.

After graduating from college he spent two years in the Army, a portion of the time stationed in Germany. While in Germany he and his wife traveled around the country, visiting the local potters.

It was there that the idea to become a full time potter, rather than a teacher, solidified. After his tour of duty was over, they returned to the United States and set up their studio, first in a factory, then later in the place it is right now.

"IN THIS book I also talk about what a studio is and what it isn't," he said. "I take the stand that most jobs are better done by hand. I think the artist should maintain contact with the material."

"If something could be done with a mold or by machine and still be the same it would be a miracle. But if I were to make a mold and pour the clay into it; anyone could tell the difference between it and something I've made by hand."

"To a potter, of course the difference would be even more distinct. The main thing is to get together with the pots, and relate to them. You just can't reproduce these pots like it's a factory."

Some of Glick's works are currently on display in a one man show at the Rubiner Gallery, 621 S. Washington Street, Royal Oak.

When preparing for a show, such as the Rubiner one, Glick says he takes his best works throughout the year and puts them aside.

Just before the show he will go over the objects he has set aside and choose the ones he thinks best represent his progression through the year.

"You can't prepare for a show in just a month or two," he said. "Actually I suppose I could say, well this month I'll just work on things for the show."

"But people who know me well, and know my work could look at it and know that it only represented my September thinking. I can't just take a group of things before I make them and say, these will be special."

"Sometimes I can work for months and nothing will have that special magic that I look for when choosing things for a show. That is why I can't do a show like this very often."

Glick is currently in his tenth year as a full time potter in Farmington.

Some of his works are on display at the Detroit Museum of Art, Krannert Museum of Art, Urbana, Illinois, Wayne State University, Department of Art Permanent collection, Eastern Michigan University, permanent collection, Mississippi Art Association Permanent Art Collection, Jackson Mississippi, and Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.



John Glick empties his kiln after a firing. (Photo by Fran Evert)

## Studio tour benefits center

FARMINGTON—On Sunday, Nov. 3, John Glick will open his studio, Plum Tree Pottery, for hour long tours to benefit the Farmington Community Center.

The tours will be at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The 2 p.m. show has already been sold out. Tickets are \$1.50 a person and must be purchased in advance at the Community Center, 2475 Farmington Rd.

Mail orders will be filled if accompanied by a check and stamped self-addressed envelope.

During the tour Glick will explain the many facets of his work and will give a demonstration on the potters wheel.

Alberta Taylor, Director of the Community Center, said, "The tours are a reflection of John Glick's whole philosophy of life and work."

He believes deeply in being involved with the community and—as always been generous with his time and gifts to groups in the Farmington area."

## Oakland picks new officers

ROCHESTER—Oakland University's board of trustees selected a new chairman and a new vice-chairman during a regular board meeting Monday (Sept. 30).

Elected chairman was Arthur W. Saltzman of Franklin; elected vice-chairman was Leland W. Carr Jr. of East Lansing.

A New York City native, Saltzman is centralized industrial relations services manager for Ford Motor Co. He joined the automotive firm in 1933.

Prior to assuming his present post in 1968, Saltzman was manager of Ford's corporate education and training department.

EARLIER, HE taught economics at Utica College of Syracuse University; he continues to teach part-time at Wayne State University in Detroit. Saltzman's civic attachments are varied. Currently, Saltzman is president of the Franklin Community Association and a member of the Manpower Advisory Commission to Gov. William G. Milliken.

He also belongs to the American Economics Association, the American Society for Training and Development and the Industrial Relations Research Association.

During the Korean War, Saltzman served as a branch chief in the Michigan office of the Wage Stabilization Board; in 1965 and 1966, he took a leave of absence from Ford to serve as director of the Michigan Economic Opportunity office.

IN 1966, he received a Ford "Citizen of the Year" award. His wife, Florence, is immediate past president of the Birmingham Board of Education; she now is a candidate for the state board of education.

An attorney in private practice, Carr has been the legal representative for Michigan State University since 1952.

His background includes a stint as a special assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan.

Saltzman replaces Otis M. Smith of Detroit. General counsel and vice-president for General Motors Corp., Smith will remain as a board member.

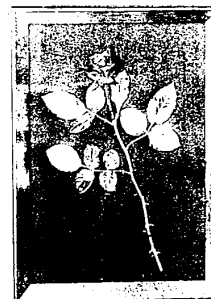
## A New Art Form

Direct from Argentina  
NOW thru Oct. 13  
Exquisite Art By Alicia

See living roses and other flowers preserved forever in 24 karat gold or silvery finish, tastefully mounted in luxurious shadow boxes.

A most unusual art in the making—over 5 years of testing to perfect the process—

THE BEAUTY OF NATURE PRESERVED FOREVER!



## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Visit our display of TV cabinet styles, help the manufacturer decide on future styles

## WIN a 19" PORTABLE COLOR TV

- Nothing to buy. Just register at our display in the Mall Friday, October 11—any time all day.
- You must be over 18.



WATCH FOR OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Coming October 17-27

## Livonia Mall

7 Mile at Middlebelt

Open daily, til 9 p.m.  
Sunday noon til 5 p.m.