



JOAN PASMAN



Staff photos  
by Harry Mauthe

## For Farmington woman

# Ceramics opens door to unusual

By CORINNE ABATT

Although Joan Pasman of Farmington Hills says she loves being a ceramist, the real proof is in the work. The distinctive flair for the unusual is evident in much of her work obviously comes from a personality that thrives on creativity.

Mrs. Pasman, housewife, mother of four, student at the Center for Creative Studies (formerly Detroit School of Arts and Crafts) working on a second degree, a bachelor of fine arts, is a part-time potter.

With husband, Robert, an attorney, and four children at home, Mary, 20, Robin, 18, Stefanie, 15, and Lauren, 12, part-time is all she can manage.

ALTHOUGH SHE FINDS her time at the potter's wheel in the basement studio limited, she says, "Thank God I don't have to do it for a living, the I'd really be busy."

She feels a certain pride in using her free time creatively.

During a good part of the past summer, Mrs. Pasman has been sitting

ready for the Lafayette Park Art Fair, to be held in downtown Detroit shopping plaza at Lafayette and Orleans, Saturday, Sept. 13 and Sunday, Sept. 14.

In addition to more traditional pots, there will be some Pasman specials in the booth—masks made from a mold of her face with an edge of feathers.

Mrs. Pasman frequently uses feathers with her work. A large bowl, glazed on the inside, natural clay on the outside has a series of African-type masks trimmed with feathers around the edge. A mask of a contorted face with bulging eyes is certain to attract attention.

She picks up one of the masks from her face mold. "This is the kind of stuff I like to do. The feathers are put in after it is completely fired."

"NORMALLY MOST of my stuff is a single fire process. I throw, trim, let it dry until it is leather hard and then glaze. It's a little tricky. You

have to know the right feel of the clay."

More traditional is the twice-fired process. The work is thrown or shaped, fired then glazed and fired again.

Exceptions are the large bisque wall hangings with the face of a woman with coils of hair. These are twice-fired.

Another unusual technique the Farmington Hills potter likes is coiling—pots with a fiber trim. "It's very difficult to combine fiber and clay successfully."

As far as she knows, she is the only artist in the area using the technique. Mrs. Pasman, who received her degree in art education from Wayne State University in 1953, says she went back to school part-time "for my own enjoyment."

It has worked out well. She does her experimental work at the Center for Creative Studies and what she calls

her "production work" in her home studio.

Actually, the production is a misnomer. It is the work she considers marketable for shows and galleries. Her work is in the Habitat Galleries in Dearborn and Southfield, Art Forms Gallery of Detroit and the Detroit Artists Market.

She holds up one of the masks and says, "I do this kind of work for a couple of months and then I have to go downstairs and throw a really good, functional, traditional pot."

Mrs. Pasman says she is pleased with the gradual public recognition potters are beginning to receive.



A bisque wall hanging (above) waits to be glazed with the results shown below. This type of art has to be fired twice, according to Mrs. Pasman.



## Livonia Mall Presents:

### ANCIENT GODS and RITUALS OF PREHISPANIC MEXICO

SEPTEMBER 10-14

- A COLLECTION OF DISPLAYS RECREATING LIFE IN ANCIENT MIXTEC, MAYAN AND AZTEC CULTURES.
- DRAMATIC NARRATED DEPICTIONS OF RELIGIOUS RITES.
- AUTHENTIC CEREMONIAL MASKS, PRE-COLUMBIAN POTTERY.
- CLOTHING, FEATHER HEADDRESSES AND WEAPONS.



AN ATTENDANT WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

Recommended by the National Tourist Council of Mexico.



**Livonia Mall**

7 MILE ROAD AT MIDDLEBELT  
OPEN DAILY 'TIL 9 P.M. SUNDAY NOON 'TIL 5 P.M.

