

Her artistry spans painting, sculpture

By CINDY HOOGLASIAN

Fantasy, tranquility and love are emanating from the walls of Cuniff Originals Gallery.

Mildred Louise Pawling's one-woman show, on display through Saturday, is the source of this inspiration and, according to proprietor Helen Cuniff, the source of inspiration for many who feel physically restrained from creativity.

Ms. Pawling's paintings and sculpture speak well of her talent and of the training she received since 1966. Her works are even more impressive when viewed with the knowledge that Ms. Pawling suffers from arthritic hands.

"I ignore the arthritis completely," Ms. Pawling said. "I certainly don't consider myself handicapped." As proof, she labored 16 hours a day for three months to produce the 60 paintings on display at 128 E. Fourth.

"I believe she is the epitome of the creative process," Ms. Cuniff said. "Mildred is an inspiration to those who cannot do things with their creative abilities because they believe they are handicapped."

Ms. Pawling's medium is oil. Her realistic paintings are best typified in her many bayou scenes.

In her winter landscapes, the cool colors and crisp finishes convey the

feeling of seeing through reality to something slightly superior.

"REALITY ISN'T always beautiful in every sense of the word, but a lot of it is. You can make it more beautiful by changing and abstracting qualities of reality and painting them your own way," Ms. Pawling explained.

Ms. Cuniff noted the spirituality of Ms. Pawling's paintings. One work in particular stands out in this category. "Unity," a large painting done in warm yellows, muted oranges and soft pinks depicts a family standing in God's light.

Although the properties of faith and fantasy are included in other works, Ms. Pawling's noninterpretive pieces illustrate the technical mastery of her art.

Ms. Pawling's sculptures, which take four to six months to finish, are among the best works in her show. The bronzed heads of her granddaughter and late husband are dramatic pieces.

Portraits of children and adults are included in this versatile, mixed-media exhibit.

Works on display range from \$25 to \$900.

Ms. Pawling now paints under the signature "Melouise." Previously, she signed her paintings Mildred Pawling,

but tired of using two names. She decided to shorten her signature and make a statement about her work at the same time.

"I have always liked things soft and flowing. Pawling has a harsh sound, as does Mildred. But Melouise blends

Mildred and Louise, and it seems to flow nicely," Ms. Pawling explained.

THE ARTIST is pleased with her exhibit and hopes others enjoy it, too.

"I pour a lot of myself and a lot of love into my work. I like to make

people happy through my art. It makes me feel good.

"I have had a wonderful life and am an extremely tranquil person. I think some of this shows through my work."

Ms. Pawling also enjoys sharing her abilities with others by trying to help them discover their own creativity.

She teaches a senior citizens class in Oakland Towers and also works with adults at the gallery. In 1975 she began teaching oil painting and sculpting in her Troy home, using a second bed-

room as a studio.

Ms. Pawling is encouraged by the enthusiastic reception her works have received and plans to continue her career.

"I have every intention of taking my career as far as I can go. The further I can go, the more I can give."

Ms. Pawling's show gives one a general taste of her abilities and makes one eager to see future efforts. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and during the day on Sunday.

Where it goes

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Diabetics, parents offered classes

Oakland County's Department of Health is offering two series of public health classes in March. A winter series for expectant parents will begin in March 13 and a series of diabetic classes will start on March 16.

The expectant parent classes will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 13, 14 and 15 and will continue for eight weeks. They will be taught, free of charge, at the South Oakland Health Center, 2728 Greenfield at Catalpa in South-

field. To register, those interested should call the education office of the health department at 424-7058.

The classes are taught by public health nurses and are co-sponsored by the Oakland County Medical Society and adult education departments throughout the county.

Topics include the mental health of the family unit, growth and development of the baby before and immediately after birth, labor and delivery and care and feeding of the infant.

Audio-visual aids such as films will be used to illustrate some of the topics

and class participants are taken on a tour of a hospital.

Classes are limited to 26 persons (13 couples).

Classes for adult diabetics will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 16 and will continue for six consecutive Thursdays. Classes are free.

Classes will be held at the South Oakland Health Center in Southfield. Registration can be made by calling the education office at 424-7058.

The classes are taught by public health nurses and a Department of Health nutritionist.

Topics covered include: The nature of the disease, dietary management, medications and suggestions for coping with everyday problems.

Those attending must have diabetes or have a family member who has the disease. They must be under the care of a physician. A written statement from the doctor is required for attendance and can be presented at the first class.

Classes are limited to 20 persons.

Mildred Pawling captured her husband's image with her creative hands.

Spring magic fashions set

A musical fashion extravaganza called "The Magic of Spring" will be presented by Northland Center at 2 and 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 9 in the Hudson-Phillips Court.

The show will be presented by Affiliated Models in conjunction with the Southfield shopping mall.

An entertaining fashion preview, the show features a cast of 15 talented young girls and guys from the metropolitan area who will dance their way into the big fashion scenes for spring.

The exciting new spring fashions will be from a number of stores in Northland Center.

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Career plan seminar set

A seminar for goal-oriented persons determined to pursue chosen career fields is planned for Saturday, March 11 at the Holiday Inn in Southfield.

The seminar will be conducted by Dr. Doris Buhr Kilanski, associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Eastern Michigan University. She has several years of career counseling experience and has

run seminars for persons choosing or changing careers.

Cost of the seminar, materials and lunch is \$22.50 if pre-paid but extra for lunch if paid at the door.

To register, send a check for \$10 to Dr. Doris Buhr Kilanski, 6550 Hannan Wayne, MI. 48194. Pre-registrations will end on March 8.



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