

Artist says it with his flower

By HELEN ZUCKER
Who would have thought any artist could do something new with the subject of flowers?

Jim Dine, a man with a fertile brain, and an original eye, manages to make something fresh out of a very old subject. Dine, always an elegant artist, reaches new heights in his current show of hand-colored etchings at the Showcase Galleries, Southfield.

He's an extraordinary draftsman. His work has a delicacy, a fine-tuned edge to every line. His washes are the colors of dawn. The palest of greens and pinks, oranges that are the shade of fresh melons, velvety blacks around the edges of his "Tulips," "Anemones," and "Superb Lilies," as Dine rightfully calls them, lift the flowers into a climate one can almost breathe. Dine's backgrounds, as carefully thought out as the arrangement of his flowers, remind one of pollen dropping from the air. It's spring in Dine's etchings. The earth is sprouting. These are affirmative works, good to look at.

I LOVED "Tropical Succulents." The picture made me want to run down to the Belle Isle Conservatory to see the tropical blooms from whence this etching sprang.

Dine, who is not as literal as Audubon, or as lush as Monet, looks just as closely at the flora as his predecessors. He brings a singularly modern sensibility to the subject—the sensibility of a man who has forgotten flora exists and then turns around and rediscovers beauty under his feet.

A pink flower, its petals just opening against a background of scratched

white and greys, soars off to the side of a translucent wash. Dine brings a wonderfully sophisticated quality and a fine sense of shapes to everything he does.

For sheer purity, "Anthurium," done in black, white and greys, is perhaps the highlight of the show. Dine is the artist who has given us marvelous drawings of everyday objects. Since the early '60s, he has had shows at the Martha Jackson, Sidney Janis, Sonnabend Galleries in New York. His works hang in the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney. His drawings of brushes, rows of bottles, jars, braids, hearts, parts of the body, bathrobes, and containers of all kinds, can be seen in university museums across the country. Dine has a meticulous hand, and his long involvement in close scrutiny of detail pays off in this show.

DINE CALLS his newest etchings "A Temple of Flora." It's a good title. The show, a hymn to flowers, and Dine catches the poetry of newly sprung buds. All of the etchings were done in 1977-78.

Claire Cantor and Corinne Lemberg, owners of the Showcase Galleries at 26555 Evergreen, have hung the show in an arresting way. It starts in the window and moves along the left wall of the gallery. Showcase is an ambitious gallery. There are some wonderful works by Helen Frankenthaler, Guy de Corindef, and local artists on hand, too. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show runs through June 24.



Jim Dine's color etchings at the Showcase Galleries bring a new dimension to the sometimes tired subject of flowers.

Building is down

The estimated value of new building starts dropped in May compared to the same month in 1977.

Last month, according to figures from Southfield Department of Building and Safety Engineering, 62 permits were issued at an estimated \$1.1 million. In May 1977, 56 building permits

accounted for \$19.1 million in estimated value.

Two commercial building starts last month were estimated to cost \$493,000. Permits were issued for two new residences at an estimated \$126,700. No apartment building permits were issued.

Church rites are memorial

People of Estonian Latvian and Lithuanian descent will have their first joint church service in memory of the 37th anniversary of the first mass deportation by the Communists from their countries.

The service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday, June 18 at Divine Providence Lithuanian Catholic Church in Southfield. Clergy from all three nationalities will preside at the service.

Meet the "Safari Swingers" at the Livonia Mall

Direct from Disneyland and exclusively at the Livonia Mall are the hilarious new stars from Disney's new animated full-length film based on THE MOWGLI STORIES by Rudyard Kipling. You'll see Baloo the Bear, King Louie and the Monkey with the Master of Ceremonies Fulton Burley. The fully costumed troop will sing and dance in a swingin', swingin', Safari of fun...only at the Livonia Mall.



Live performances on Saturday, June 17, 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.



See Walt Disney's "Jungle Book" full-length comedy feature opening June 21st at your neighborhood theater.

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THE JUNGLE BOOK

Good grades win letters

Lederle Middle School students with a 3.5 average or better were awarded six-inch embroidered L's for their academic achievements.

"We thought the kids with brains should get recognized," said principal Joe Callahan.

The 64 students otherwise would have received certificates of merit, he said.

The idea to give academic letters came to Lederle while several teachers were discussing their plight at large.

"One teacher got the idea after reading an article in Newsweek about a high school that was doing the same thing," Callahan said.

The school will present the letters annually as an incentive for good grades. That decision is a result of

strong support from parents and students.

"We will continue giving the letters. The kids that received them this year will get pins to go on their letters next year," Callahan said.

OCC honors 'A' students

Three Farmington area students were among 71 students named to the annual academic honors Dean's List at the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College.

Cindy Christy of Farmington, and Linda Kovan and Cynthia Masson, both of Farmington Hills, earned an "A" average for 12 or more credits.

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