



Horses, large and small and fit for a home rather than a stable, are the work of Montana artist Deborah Butterfield.

Gallery exhibits stable thinking

by HELEN ZUCKER

Deborah Butterfield's horses at the Lee Hoffman Gallery are witty, strangely moving, and wonderfully constructed.

Made of straw, clay, chicken wire, mud, plexiglass, plaster, and fiberglass strands over a steel armature, these animals, are, in some mysterious way, enormously lovable.

They bend their muzzles as if they want to nuzzle against your hand. Their necks droop in that marvelous, elongated, graceful, "equestrian way."

Ms. Butterfield, a young artist who lives in Montana, started with "naturalistic representations of mares—life-sized, painted plaster horses." She painted them as if they were "pieces of sky." She thought of the horses as a form of self-portrait—a metaphor through which she could remove herself from the image and objectify her work.

Unable to make the opening of her show on June 17 because of an airline strike, the artist sent a statement dealing with her thinking and her goals. Reading it, one gathers she learned a lot doing large-scale sculpture.

From plaster, Ms. Butterfield moved on to mud and straw. She takes off a bit from African objects, (many of which are made of mud and straw), but there is no direct African influence visible in her work.

Its openness, its inventiveness its peculiar freshness are pure American. After seeing her work, one wants to take off for an open plain in the Midwest or Far West to see ponies run—or buy a stable and park one of these horses in it.

Ms. Butterfield's second series of horses were covered with mud and straw. She wrote, "These are a mud-slinging reaction to formalist art."

Ms. Butterfield knows her forms and her materials. She is well-equipped to "sling mud" and she has the daring. The mud and straw works were partly a "realistic representation of muddy horses inspiring, and I wanted to show a darker, more sinister side of the horses (and myself)," she wrote.

THESE HORSES SUCCEEDED admirably, but there is nothing sinister about the mares currently on view at the Hoffman Gallery. Ingenious in their synthesis of natural and man-made materials, a wholeness befits forth from these animals. Ms. Butterfield creates, in the works I liked best, a remarkably poignant atmosphere.

The straw on her smaller horses sticks up the way straw sticks to the heads of children who have fallen asleep in a hayloft. The downward thrust of the muzzle, the way the heads are rounded off, establishes a clear vulnerability. Ms. Butterfield underestimates the sweet power of what she has made.

Ms. Butterfield's recent work is made of "big mud and sticks." She has done horses lying down, sticks protruding through the surfaces to "deny the horse form." Rather than deny the form, the protruding sticks, the wrapped, bunched straw emphasizes the mysterious loveliness of the horse form.

HER NEWEST WORKS, the small horses in this show, are a meeting of all she has learned. Everything comes together here. One hesitates to use the word charming when speaking of work that is essentially serious, but, so help me, "Eucalyptus Bark," "Cattails," "Lily Leaves," "Iris Leaves," get away with being charming. It does not detract. There is no sentimentality in any of these works.

Ms. Butterfield is currently trying to develop a sense of presence, trying to get her horses to be more horsey, and yet to look less and less like a horse. She wrote that she is "becoming less involved with the personality of the horses and more involved with "manipulating them in space."

The goal of all sculptors is to manipulate space—to embrace it, enclose it, bend it to their will. Ms. Butterfield has already caught the presence (a near miracle) of horses. I hope she will not leave the personalities of animals for the airy reaches of total abstraction.

HAGGERTY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO.
FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS
 2055 HAGGERTY, WALLED LAKE
 624-4551 or 356-6166

VANNETE'S PIZZA BOX
 Features:
 Square Shooter Pizza
 Subs-Ribs-Slushes
 Frozen Yogurt



Call 532-1281
 17376 Lahser, (Old Redford)
 Next to the Redford Theatre

FALL REGISTRATION

TRADITIONAL COLLEGE CLASSES (TRANSFER and CAREER)
 Classes begin August 31
 Mail-in Registration—Closed
 Walk-in Registration—August 25
 August 28-29 by student number
 Late Registration—August 31
 September 1, September 5-12
 Telephone 591-6400
 Ext. 340

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICES CLASSES
 Classes begin September 18
 Mail-in Registration—Closed
 Walk-in Registration—Sept. 6-7
 Late Registration—September 12
 Telephone 591-6400
 Ext. 404

Schoolcraft College
 18600 HAGGERTY RD. LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48152



FASCINATING! A Spanish Estate with all of the luxuries for comfortable living. Large garden courtyard opens to stunning 2-story foyer, towering walls of brick, massive fireplaces and huge planes of glass. Circle stairs off foyer lead to fully exposed lower level and magnificent pool setting. Basics include 4 oversized bedrooms, 6 baths, 26'x18' family room plus central air, intercom, etc. Bloomfield Hills schools. 626-9100. \$374,900.

HILLTOP VIEWS of Wabek fairways and lake from this attractive end-unit condominium — one of the finest locations in Wabek. Enjoy fireplace family room, English Pub rec room, game room, 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths. 626-9100. \$169,900.

RETREAT IN ROCHESTER. Pure natural beauty on private half acre. Spacious comfort in 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3 fireplaces in family and living rooms and in finished walk-out rec room. Central Air, etc. 651-8850. \$153,000.

PALATIAL ESTATE. Elegant hilltop home in prime Birmingham area. Massive 5,000 sq. ft. of attractively finished living area in this walk-out Ranch. Four bedrooms on main level, 4 full baths, 2 fireplaces in beautifully done family room and in huge, finished recreation room which walks-out to lovely patio and in-ground pool. Gourmet kitchen with large pantry serves very formal dining room. Central Air among extras. 626-9100. \$179,900.

A UNIQUE HOME to discover! Pinewood Manor of Southfield hosts this impeccably maintained home. 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, large first floor laundry, a focal point in the recreation room with a fireplace. 557-6700. \$89,900.

OVER AN ACRE of privacy with stately walk-out Ranch. Fireplaces warm 30'x24' family room with wet bar and living room. 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, porch and large patio with double gas barbecue. 626-9100. \$124,900.

QUARTON LAKE ESTATES — top Birmingham neighborhood with completely redecorated home, 4 bedrooms plus library, 4 baths, 2 fireplaces, new Central Air, high efficiency gas furnace. Nothing but charm! 647-5950. \$158,500.

VIEW A SCENIC LAKE from an inspiring porch-deck on hot summer nights. Enjoy a 37' family room with fireplace, 2 full baths, Central Air and custom construction. In Union Lake area. A vacation home. 557-6700. \$85,900.

BIRMINGHAM'S PRIZE Westchester Village offers this spacious 4 bedroom Ranch with 2½ baths, family room, 2 fireplaces in family kitchen and living room. Nice recreation room. Immediate Possession. 646-6000. \$89,500.

ROCHESTER COUNTRY living on lovely acreage with barn and this handsome 4 bedroom, 2½ bath Colonial. Family room has fireplace, sunlight ceiling in complete kitchen. Garage door openers. 651-8850. \$95,900.

CHARM IN TROY. Attractive brick and aluminum Ranch offers comfortable family room with fireplace, partially finished basement, 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths plus Central Air, large patio with gas grill. 689-8900. \$72,500.

AN OLDIE but a goodie! Grecious 4 bedroom, 1½ bath estate is super clean and well decorated. A convenient North Royal Oak location close to shopping and transportation. 557-6700. \$33,400.

A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE will greet you from every home on this lovely Southfield street. Family room glows with warmth and comfort. Immaculate basement has storage galore. VALUE! 557-6700. \$79,900.

BONANZA
 "Atmosphere On A Budget"

TUESDAY SPECIALS
RIB EYE STEAK only \$239
 Includes Baked Potatoes
 Texas Toast & Salad Bar - Served from 4 p.m. 'til closing

CHOPPED STEAK only \$219
 Includes Baked Potatoes
 Texas Toast & Salad Bar - Served from 4 p.m. 'til closing

Great **SALAD BAR**
 13 Items to mix
 5 delicious dressings

MONDAY IS SENIOR CITIZENS DAY SENIOR CITIZENS RECEIVE THEIR BEVERAGE FREE! ALL DAY!

LUNCHEON SPECIALS
CHOPPED STEAK \$1.69
N.Y. PETITE DINNER \$1.99
BREADED STRIP DINNER \$1.99
VEAL CUTLET \$1.69

Includes Toast, Potato, Salad Bar
SERVED ALL DAY MONDAY — 11-4 TUES.-SAT.

SOUTHFIELD 29610 W. 8 MILE RD. AT BEECHCROFT RD. IN KAMART PLAZA
BELLEVILLE 2053 RAWSONVILLE RD. OFF 194 N. KAMART PLAZA
LIVONIA 23446 W. 7 MILE RD. AT FARMINGTON RD. IN KAMART PLAZA

HOURS: MON-THURS. 11 to 8:30
 FRI. & SAT. 11-9 • SUNDAY 11-6

Chamberlain REALTORS

- BIRMINGHAM 646-6000
- BLOOMFIELD HILLS 647-5950
- WEST BLOOMFIELD 851-8100
- FARMINGTON HILLS-FRANKLIN 626-9100
- SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP VILLAGE 557-6700
- ROCHESTER 651-8850
- TROY 689-8900