

Pottery, paintings make compatible show

By CORINNE ABATT

There's always an element of risk in planning a two-person art exhibit. Will the works be compatible? Will one outshine or over power the other? In preparing for their combined

show at the Troy Art Gallery Jo-Anne Westerby of Troy and Phyllis Ihrman of Southfield each asked themselves these questions. Mrs. Ihrman is a studio potter who does small porcelain vessels in classical shapes with a single fire glaze. Many of her glazes have crystal-

'A lot of my glazes are right on the line. If you play it safe, they're ordinary. They have to be right on the edge.'

— Phyllis Ihrman

Beautification Council gathers at OCC March 16

The City of Farmington Beautification Committee and the City of Farmington host the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan for its spring quarterly meeting Friday, March 16. Registration begins at 11 a.m. in Building J, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College, for the 100 persons who will be representing communities in southeastern Michigan. The event is open to all interested persons. Professor Joseph T. Cox, extension specialist in urban planning and land-

scape architecture, will be the guest speaker. His topic is "Landscaping Concepts for Simplifying Maintenance." He has been affiliated with Michigan State University since 1948. An "Idea Corner" where guests will bring samples of successful beautification programs from their community to share with others, will run from 11 a.m. to noon, and then after lunch until 3 p.m. Reservations are being taken, at \$5 each, by the City Manager's office, Farmington City Hall, 474-5500.

line structure in them, some complex and readily apparent, others so subtle that just the right light is needed to bring out the crystalline qualities. Her colors range from intense blues and greens to very subtle off whites.

MRS. WESTERBY is as at home on large canvases as she is with smaller paintings. She builds up layers of resin acrylics and resin oils to create movement with swirling masses of colors and dramatic shading. Yet, when both artists arrived to deliver some of their work for the gallery show which opened this week, all fears disappeared. Each artist's pieces retained their independence while light and color bounced back and forth between paintings and porcelains with added values.

Along with the paintings Mrs. Westerby is showing several more prints which she said, "Are just now coming out of the classification of bastard." She points on glass, lays the paper on top and then pulls the paper from the plate without using any kind of a press. "It's very spontaneous, very controlled, and a terrific challenge," she said. "You get effects you just can't get with a brush."

BECAUSE OF the process, a sin-

gle mono print may be pulled, possibly one or two additional ones. However, each will be different in both color values and textural qualities.

"I like the change of doing something like that and then I will go back to painting with resins," she said.

Mrs. Ihrman said that she works in the studio in her home at least eight hours a day many days a week as she can manage.

"If I'm away from it for too long, I'm not me, I can't imagine doing anything else," she said.

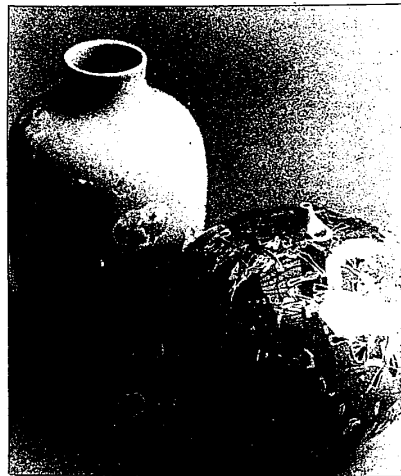
She credits one of her early teachers, John Foster, with developing the Oriental influence in her work. She also credits him for developing her compelling love of the media.

She picked up one of the classic porcelain vases which are in the show and said, "The formula I am using for these is very similar to that used during the Sung dynasty."

Many scholars believe that Chinese ceramics were at their zenith during that period.

"I feel like those shapes (classical Oriental) don't belong to any one time or color," she said. She curved her hand around one of them and said, "It's like the pulse beat of your whole life. My pots are happy pots. I can only produce when I'm happy."

She and Mrs. Westerby agreed that while art and creative pursuits gener-



Crystalline in Phyllis Ihrman's glazes often takes snowflake-like shapes.

ally add to happiness, there are moments when the tension can build very high. Mrs. Ihrman said, "A lot of my glazes are right on the line. If you play it safe, they're ordinary."

Their show, "Paintings and Porcelains," will continue at the Troy Art Gallery through April 7. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 755 Big Beaver in the Top of Troy concourse.

Club Circuit

WOMEN'S ADVERTISING CLUB of Detroit wants nominations for "Advertising Woman of the Year." Competition is open to all women in the Detroit area who perform or work in advertising or related fields. A panel of prominent Detroit-area business people will select the winner. Nominations, which must be postmarked no later than March 23, should be sent to Eleanor Tuttle, Ad. Woman of the Year chairman, Women's Advertising Club of Detroit, 1616 Book Tower Building, Detroit 48226.

KENDALLWOOD LADIES GOLF LEAGUE continues its search for experienced or beginning women golfers to join them in play which begins May 15. All entrants must be registered before March 31 with Carole May, 553-4124.

PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS, Farmington-Southfield Chapter, will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with dancing to a big band sound from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, March 16, in Bonnie Brook, on Telegraph, south of Eight Mile. Admission at the door is \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members. All activities and events sponsored by the group are open to parents without Partners, only.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS, Farmington Hills Chapter, March 20, meet at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 16, in Farmington Community Library on Twelve Mile. The Twelve Tones, an all-girl musical group from Farmington High School, highlight the afternoon program. The group's "Tax-Aide" program continues through April 10 in Mercy Center, Farmington Community Library, and Redford Township Library assisting the handicapped and seniors with 1979 tax forms. Membership in the association is open to all persons over the age of 55, whether retired or not. Membership inquiries will be taken by calling A. L. Mueller, 476-6697.

PIONEER WOMEN, Hanita Chapter, meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, in Labor Zionist Alliance Building, on Middlebelt in Farmington. Program for the afternoon is a book review by Mrs. Max Wein, librarian in Beth Hillel Moses Synagogue.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024, and must arrive on the Monday prior to Thursday publication.

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