## **Elegant Art Forms**

## 2 combine talents to create specialty art

Specialty art is the phrase used by Marlyss Hollyer and Terry McKissack to describe their combined talents that make up the year-old operations of "Elegant Art Forms."

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Their finished art works runs a middle road between commercial art and fine art crossing all lines from cartooning to portraits, sometimes combining them all.

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In the throes now of finishing painings for a new room in Detroit's Diamond Jim Brady restaurant, their commissions have run from paining a wall closet in a private home so it appears as a barn door, to the Ambassador Bridge as it appeared during the turn of the/century.

"The whole business has turned us into a couple of history buffs," McKissack said. "We do almost as much reading as painting while we're researching out some of our client's requests."

Resparching for a Miss Piggy who greets youngsters on the entrywalls of a Farmington pediatric clinic or copying a picture of a clown in greasepaint was a simple matter.

Finding references to make a picture of Jefferson Avenue as it boded in its long-ago heyday or indining a photograph of Jessie Bonstelle in her youth was another matter.

to do something for a second time. And when that happens we'll be ready," Ms. Hollyer said, speaking of the couple's growing library.

The partners have become avid shoppers at used book sales and stores because so many of their clients have requested themes of a specific era.

"We paid \$80 for one book because we were in a pinch and had to, and we've used it once," McKissack said. But scouting the book sales yielded their best find for 50 cents.

"I think it was a lettering book that was used for work on old posters," Ms. Hollyer said, "It's our very favorite and we've referred to that dozens of times." On conson "unot of sketches are made," Ms. Hollyer said, when a client want and a given era but is not sure "The most work we ever did for one client was one who asked for paintings of some gorgeous women to hang in his bar. Everybody's idea of a gorgeous woman is different I guess. He wanted very robust ones but forgot to tell us that.

Staff photos **Randy Borst** 

McKISSACK handles most of the

McKISSACK handles most of the buildings and scenery requests for Elegant Art Forms and Ms. Follyer does most of the agree of the first of the green of the same time. They worked on their first job together painting murals in Farmington Nursing Home, a job that was taliormade for McKissack at the time. As things turned out, it was a turning point in his career.

A fine art oil painter and owner of a construction company, McKissack was recouperating from surgery when he was offered a commission with Ms. Hollyer to brighten up the walls of the nursing home.

"I could still use my hands and my head but that was about all," McKissack waid in the found that was about all," McKissack waid the stay of the found that was over every wall they've got over there."

Meanwhile, Ms. Hollyer was finishing up studies at Oskland Community College "and just starting to think very seriously about becoming a fulltime risk-mounting in the sold.

Now they both work full time, "bouncing ideas off one another which

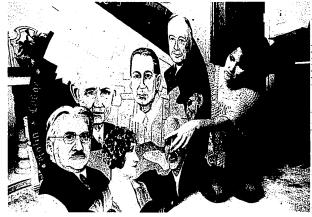
artist," she said.

Now they both work full time,
"bouncing ideas off one another which
is the fun part," Ms. Hollyer said.

Inquiries will be taken by calling Elegant Art Forms, 553-4454.

The portraits of seven persons who were prominent in building Detroit were combined into one picture, designed and painted by Marlyss Hollyer. The art

form is called specialty art, which is the specialty of Elegant Art Forms.





Requests from clients for either landscape or buildings is gener-ally taken care of by McKissack. He's working on a painting here depicting what Jefferson Avenue will look like after its res-toration.



Terry McKissack and Marlyss Hollyer show two paintings from Elegant Art Forms that will be hanging in Diamond Jim Brady's resturant by the time this is read. Entry to the Ambassador Bridge, at the time it was built, was from a park, as shown on the park, as shown on the left. The painting of Detroit Opera House is done in bold pink and red.

## Fortune smiles on area composer

By Corinne Abatt staff writer

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The golden hand on Martin Scot Kosins' shoulder hasn't let go yet. It was there when he first thought of recording some of his compositions.

The first release by Kosins' company, Open Sky Records, 'Songs of hes adount name is one of the control of the control

sical composers don't just pop up and start commanding attention that fast. This one did and he has yet to get his first pop composition on record (soon maybe). In the meantime, Kosins says his first reordings on other than his own label really paved the way for the formation of Open Sky Record.

While ail these things are happening around the country, his home area in tignoring him. Last year, Kosins did the music for a special children's concert at Meadow Brook Music Festival. This year, he's already completed a concerto for flute with plano and or-chestra to be premiered by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the bation of Neville Marriner at Meadow Brook Aug. 23.

"Meadow Brook is very special for

for years and years. Neville Marriner is one of the most respected conductors in the world."

Kosins will play the plano part and Clement Barone, the flute.

Rosins Will page up batto part and clement Barone, the flute.

The new composition was rehearsed when Marineir was in town to conduct cardinates and the state of the state of

Martin Scot Kosins (left) and Bud Shank, flutist, talk business Califor-

Kosins called the concerto "Rendez-ous," in four movements, "very senti-tental, very melodic and very roman-

tic."

He is known as a romantic and readily accepts the description. And because his mother died while he was working on it, Kosins said, "It may be all the more emotional."

his mother died while he was working on it, Kosins seems a little mystified to discover himself writing so much music for flute. "Everything I'm doing is for flute. I can hardly even hold it (a flute), but they all think I'm a flutist. I've become a flute composer." .

Bud Shank commissioned him to do a composition for flute and guitar and he has a major commission from the New American Orchestra of Los Angeles to do a connecto for two flutes to be performed noxt year.

Three more Open Sky albums are in

formed next year.

Three more Open Sky albums are in the works — the Ink Spots doing new and old songs, a jazz series featuring Al Hibler and Hank Jones and an historic series of out-of-print jazz of the '40s. "What I'm trying to do is issue records with lasting significance. There's so many coming out with a life of about six months."

And While a couple of his pop compositions may show up on these and further records, Kosins said, "I'd iddn't form the company to do all mine—that's how it started, but that's not the purpose."

purpose.

For one thing, this Detroiter, now in his mid-39s, has yet to find a side of the music and recording business he doesn't like. All of it, from composition right down to the mechanics of actually cutting a record and promotion, excites him.

cutting a record and productions him.

Having Carridine agree to do the narration for "Songs for the Seeker" was a big moment. The sound of the opening chords of his concerto in Baldwin Pavillion on Aug. 23 will be



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