



Bruce Scharfenberg experimented with many fabrics before he found nylon taffeta for the top layer for his multi-media works which contain paintings as well as elements of construction.

Moving beyond the canvas

By Corinne Abatt
Staff writer

Only briefly will the viewer be concerned with what to call Bruce Scharfenberg's art.

Whether they're three-dimensional paintings, mixed media constructions or something else quickly becomes a moot point. Scharfenberg's works cast spells. They play tricks on the eyes and the mind. And that's the fun.

Scharfenberg, a commuter between Hanover in the UP and this metropolitan area, graduated from Oakland University in 1972. His family still lives in Farmington Hills. He returns each spring to work setting up new curbs for photographing Mr. D'Arcy, MacManus and Masius, Inc.

ONE WORK in his current show at Xochipilli Gallery, 568 N. Woodward, Birmingham, is purely painting on canvas in a non-representational style. Not only is it an impressive painting, but provides continuity, establishing Scharfenberg's background as a painter who worked in a layering technique. He has always liked to build up a canvas with paint and sand it down, softening the final effect and revealing ghosts of former layers.

His new "Arcadian Series" is an extension of this style with added dimensions.

The artist starts with a painted, sanded canvas, puts a wooden frame on top of it with all four edges of the painting stretching out beyond the frame.

THE NEXT layer over the painting is a grid of nylon wire secured to the edges of the frame. To the almost invisible grid, Scharfenberg affixes, in random arrangement, bits of torn lacquered paper which from any distance at all appear to be floating in space in front of the canvas.

The top layer is nylon taffeta stretched taut to the edge of the frame and covered at the edges with dressmaker's tape. On this surface, the artist places delicate lacquer paint cutouts. These he makes by dropping splashes and bits of lacquer on another surface, choosing the shapes he wants, lifting them and transferring to the gossamer like surface.

Not only is all this exacting work, but it involves the use of an assortment of techniques with unlikely materials which the artist has developed over a long period of trial and error.

THESE CONSTRUCTION/paintings each have a particular aura or mood about them which evokes a fantasy world reminiscent of life under the sea, in outer space, or some mystery place beyond even these. And one



It is as if each layer of a Scharfenberg work opens another world to either the future or the past. He often paints a frame within a frame to add to the impression of depth.

doesn't look at them, but rather into them.

Scharfenberg and his wife, Mattie, a French teacher, have restored a Victorian home in Hanover, where he also has his studio, supported by a grant 12.

Staff photos by Dick Kelley

'Miss Charm' is sought

Representatives of Miss Charm National Scholarship Pageant are looking for young women from Michigan to represent their city or county in this year's pageant.

The competition runs in five age divisions. Little Miss is for the 4-6-year-old set; Miss Ideal, for 7-9-year-olds; Junior Miss for those 10-12; Miss Teen for 13-16-year-olds and Miss Charm for those from 17-25.

Each contestant will compete in a private interview, in talent, evening gown and sportswear categories.

There are more than \$20,000 in cash, prizes and awards, waiting to be picked up by the winners.

Miss Charm is a youth development program, now in its fourth year with headquarters in Jacksonville, N.C.

All details will be sent on request by mailing a business sized self-addressed and stamped envelope to: America's Miss Charm, PO Box 7246, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540.

Phone inquiries will be taken by calling (919) 455-0038.

New fashion panel sought by Fairlane Town Center

Fairlane Town Center is searching for 12 talented men and women between the ages of 14 and 22 to serve on the Fairlane Fashion Panel. Those interested in modeling, and who can sing, dance, play a musical instrument or recite poetry, are eligible to compete for a place on the board.

The Fashion Panel will produce complimentary weekly fashion shows in Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn; participate in charity benefits, and will have an opportunity to meet and work with well-known fashion personalities.

Panelists also will have an opportunity to take part in self-improvement programs sponsored by select stores in the Town Center. Each panel member,

who will serve from mid-February through November, will receive a Fairlane Town Center "LeSportSae" fashion tote and a shirt with the Fairlane logo.

Applications for Fashion Panel positions will be accepted through Saturday, Jan. 30. To enter the competition, complete the statement "I want to be a member of the Fairlane Fashion Panel because..." in 50 words or less.

Send name, address, telephone number and completed statement, along with a recent photograph and a \$5 registration fee, to Fairlane Town Center, Promotion Department, Management Office, Dearborn, 48126.

Twenty-five semifinalists will be selected to compete in a talent, personality and poise contest on Feb. 13 in the South Grand Court at the Town Center.

Send name, address, telephone number and completed statement, along with a recent photograph and a \$5 registration fee, to Fairlane Town Center, Promotion Department, Management Office, Dearborn, 48126.

Life is like a ladder; every step we take is either up or down.

B.F. Chamberlain
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Elise Young, tailor, had a client who wanted a pick pocket proof pocket. Intrigued, she placed a Want Ad offering a fee for the best design. She received an answer from a retired pick pocket, who refused the fee and supplied her with a design that's in the hands of a patent attorney.

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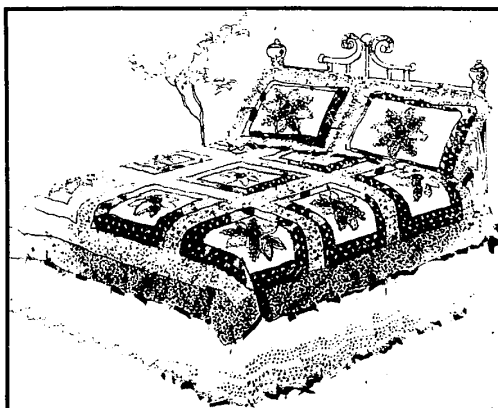


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