

Gerhardt Knodel

Weaver pays tribute to Pontiac

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

One of the not-to-be-missed exhibitions of the season, "Gerhardt Knodel Makes Places to Be" at Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum continues through Jan. 16.

As the name implies, Knodel does much more than weave. With fibers and dyes, he weaves, he creates environments, alters spaces, creates architecture and paints landscapes, still lifes and portraits. And, in doing all of these things with the loom as his tool and fiber as the medium, he becomes a master of illusion.

To those without an understanding of the basics of weaving, it is fanciful and beautiful. To those with some comprehension of the challenges, it is awesome.

His companion show at Yaw Gallery, "Intricate Way," hangs on the Jan. 16, 1983, which officially closed at the end of last year, showed yet another aspect of the artist's remarkable conceptual abilities and technical finesse.

THE MUSEUM show is a combination of models and photographs of some of the major installations along with large and small original pieces.

In this metropolitan area, he is prob-

ably best known for his 64-foot piece which dominates the lobby of the Westin Hotel in Detroit's Renaissance Center. However, this is one of many of this scale or larger which he has done for buildings throughout the country.

The tour de force in the Cranbrook Museum show is Knodel's "Pontiac Curtain," done in six panels for a total 38-feet long by 14-feet high.

Knodel, whose studio is in a three story, renovated building in downtown Pontiac, pays tribute to the city and people of Pontiac in this work in which he depicts a section of Saginaw Street with many familiar faces, symbols and landmarks incorporated into the cityscape.

Knodel sat in one of the restaurants on Saginaw and took pictures of the people of the neighborhood — just plain, no-nonsense photographs of those who were willing to cooperate. His photographs, from which he worked, are displayed on the wall opposite the art work.

THIS, like a number of other pieces in the show should be looked at from several different angles, for images appear and disappear as the light changes.

Knodel returned last fall to his position as head of the Cranbrook Academy of Art fiber department after a two-

year sabbatical leave. It was during that time that much of the work displayed at the museum and Yaw Gal-

ley were completed.

Knodel, a native of California, said in the past that he stays in Michigan because the state and its people have been good to him and he believes in the midwest as a place that needs and appreciates fine arts.

That message is incorporated in the "Pontiac Curtain," in which he gives average people in a hard-luck community a wonderful kind of dignity and beauty.

Cranbrook Museum is open 1-3 p.m. daily Tuesday-Sunday. Admission charge, 500 Lose Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

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Starring with ballet

Karen Kain is one of the best known dancers in The National Ballet of Canada which will give four performances in Windsor's Cleary Auditorium Jan. 28-30. The company will present "Balletextravaganza," which is a program of one-act ballets, solos and pas de deux with program variations for each performance. Tickets will be available after Jan. 17 at Marty's Records, 210 S. Woodward, Birmingham. To order by mail, call Cleary Auditorium, (519) 252-8311. There will be 8:15 p.m. performances Friday and Saturday and matinees Saturday and Sunday.

Registration now open for YWCA winter term

Registration for the winter term of classes for youth and adults is now open at Northland Branch YWCA, 25940 Grand River.

A special three week Shake-off program for teen and adult women begins Monday followed by a full term of physical activities and hobby classes for men, women and children beginning the week of Jan. 31.

Winter program includes such activities as tennis, swimming, physical fitness, aerobics, aqua gym, belly dance, ballroom dance, body conditioning, ceramics, dance exercise, jazz dance, oil painting, photography, powder puff mechanics, self defense, soft sculpture, stained glass, water color and yoga.

The YWCA is at the Torch Drive Agency.

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