

# Statements about life made through sculpture

By Corinne Abelt  
staff writer

A move from the sophisticated art environment of Chicago to the unknown atmosphere of this area three years ago turned out to be a satisfying one for Lola A. Sonnenschein.

The Birmingham resident who has her studio in Farmington's old winery on Grand River, will have her first one-person show at the Ann Arbor Art Association, 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, beginning with a reception from 7:30-9:30 p.m. tomorrow evening. It will continue through the month.

After arriving here (with some trepidation), Sonnenschein found the wonderful Art Space in the converted Grand River building and set to work.

But, because she had to modify her initial plans to do collages (no press), she ended up developing an art form that is totally new for her and she suspects to everyone else as well.

Although formerly a painter, she admits to always being interested in the sculptural qualities of large works. Since she's just a bit less than five feet she thinks her love of large works might signal some latent Napoleonic complex.

But, whatever the reason, in her new work, which will be in the Ann Arbor show, she's satisfied a lot of desires.

HER WORK, developed after a long period of trial and error, is essentially handmade paper poured and shaped over a multi-media armature of chicken wire and other things such as the artist's own handmade wire mesh, screening, rope and string.

She makes the pulp in her studio from torn up liners (blotter consistency sheets of white paper) or sometimes 100 percent rag.

The largest sculpture in the show, "Life Screen," is nine feet wide and almost seven feet high.

While it stands on its own, it's flexible and can be adjusted to catch the light or form a deep or shallow arc. And the bulk is deceptive, even the large pieces like this one are relatively light.

It is the size which thrills Sonnenschein almost as much as form and color. Acrylic paint is mixed with the pulp and the built-up of many layers of varying colored pulp establishes links to elements in nature — from rock formations to wasp's nests. Color is often closer to the former and structure to the latter.

"It took a lot of experimentation to get the surfaces I want," said Sonnenschein. "I find the excitement of the paper is the surface — so many differ-



In her Farmington studio, Lola Sonnenschein works on her large lightweight sculptures that are made of paper pulp, wire mesh, natural fibers and acrylic paint.

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