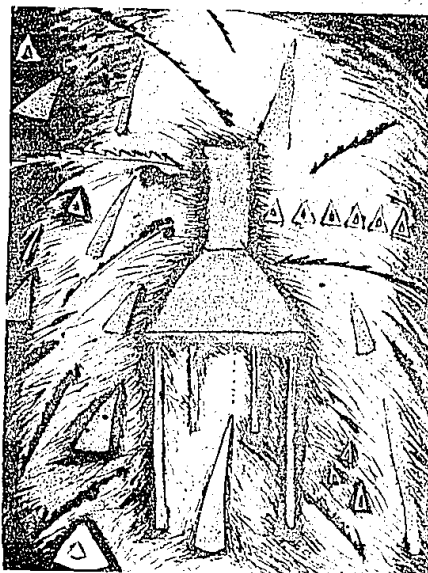
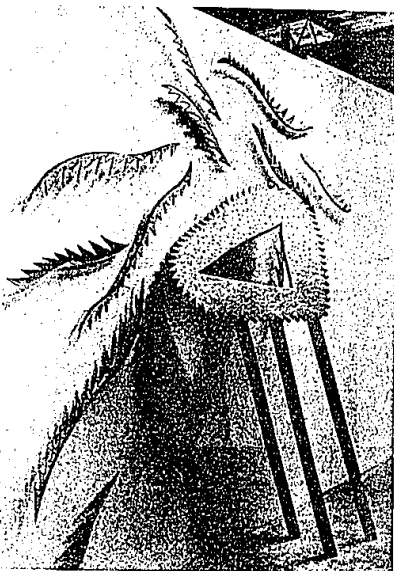




'I don't have to worry that it's all gone. I know it's inside of me. As a creative person you have to listen to your inner self. . . . From this work I have learned that.'

— Marilyn Schechter

Staff photos by
Randy Borat



The images in the drawing at immediate left are enlarged, rearranged and translated into wood in the sculpture pictured at far left. The sculpture with its feeling of freedom and floating was one of the difficult challenges which Schechter created for herself.

Inspiration

Artist taps wealth of mind's inner resources

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

MARILYN SCHECHTER'S work for her new show opening tomorrow at the Ann Arbor Art Association brings together as many unusual ideas as it does materials.

The symbols in her half a dozen or so drawings are reflected and re-interpreted in the sculptures giving a balance and rhythm to the group even though each piece is highly individual.

The show opens with a 7:30-9:30 p.m. reception and continues through Oct. 23. The Art Association is at 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor.

Schechter, a West Bloomfield resident, who has a studio in the old winery on Grand River in Farmington, has discovered the satisfaction of being in tune with and working from her own inner resources.

This new body of work began with the drawings, something unusual for this artist who specialized in printmaking in her undergraduate and graduate work at Wayne State University and Pratt. For the drawings she works in India ink, acrylic and pastel on watercolor paper.

THE SCULPTURES, wood, clay and paper combined with bits and pieces such as shells, stones, even pearls and rhinestones, take on an commanding presence.

These, she said, like her previous work, "are about man and nature, but this is a new direction, they are coming from a subconscious level."

Not long ago, she stopped making art for several months, but continued to go to her studio regularly. She kept a journal and did a lot of reading and thinking.

Then one day she had an overwhelming urge to draw — something she hadn't done for many years. Through a process of free association, many ideas surfaced.

"I had never worked that way before. I felt it was a big step for me. Now, my work is really composed of private symbols."

She innovates with a vigorous freedom, translating these symbols to captivating aesthetic forms which stand on their own as strong, compelling pieces of contemporary art.

She works without restrictions, in the process often setting up technical challenges for herself that are both stimulating and time consuming.

TO GIVE what looks at first like a small high table just the right surface, she paints, strong rice paper and then puts it on surface and legs "like wallpaper" and adds a durable finish coat.

With that, the sculpture has a dark, rich mottled appearance. Then she added pearls and rhinestones to the surface, not thickly, but just enough to produce a sparkle. The surface, so carefully made, becomes a painting.

Companion pieces for this are two porcelain, organic forms which hang on the wall. Schechter painted them an opalescent gray purple.

Schechter said wooden part of the sculpture represents a human form.

Another piece done with a similar structure and materials is decorated with stones painted shiny black, so from a distance they look like obsidian, or at the very least, wet.

Once Schechter discovered the wonders of the inner resource and was willing to let it rule her art, she found a special kind of freedom.

"I don't have to worry that it's all gone. I know it's inside of me. As a creative person you have to listen to your inner self (brain/body). From this work I have learned that."

She said she now likes and accepts her own work and

feels no need to compare it to other art.

"I've gotten rid of that baggage," she said.

THE FREEDOM which characterizes her art comes from the kind of mentality that makes the work of Gerome Kamrowsky of Ann Arbor and Italo Scanga of California (represented locally by Susanne Hilberry Gallery of Birmingham) so captivating.

A couple who had a "Wildlife Physics" exhibit at Robert L. Kidd Associates Gallery of Birmingham earlier this year, Kaye Hibel and Patrick St. Germain of Marquette also work from the inner resources of the subconscious.

In each instance, the quality of the work is excellent, the barrier between art disciplines is nonexistent and the concepts contain elements of both child and adult.

Schechter did a work for "Installations — Outdoor Sites," an exhibition sponsored by Detroit Focus Gallery and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts earlier this year, won an award in Michigan Artisan's "State of the Art" exhibit this year and is constantly in local and regional juried shows.

She is represented in the collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts, S.S. Kresge World Headquarters in Troy and Wayne State University among others.



Celebrating Pop Art

An exhibition devoted to Pop prints is at Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum through Oct. 28. Shown is "Sweet Dreams Baby," a color serigraph by Roy Lichtenstein. Films will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Mondays Oct. 1 and 15 and decent tours are given at 2 p.m. each Sunday. The museum is open 1-6 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday.

New life in the old warehouse

What People's Express is to no-frills air travel, Charles Furniture Warehouse is to discount home decorating.

At least that's how Donald and Cyra Carn of Birmingham hope shoppers will view their warehouse at 221 East Harrison in Royal Oak.

"This is a new concept," said Cyra Carn. "We've found a new way to save customers a considerable amount of money."

The Carns sell nationally advertised brands of furniture, as they have been for more than 30 years. But they're not displaying the furniture in a retail store anymore.

A year ago, the couple liquidated Charles Furniture, their retail outlet at 13 Mile and Woodward in the Northwood Shopping Center. They moved the furniture to their warehouse, spent \$10,000 renovating the building and opened it to the public in May.

"The only difference (between the two stores) is that we're not paying high rents anymore," Cyra Carn explained. The couple was paying \$4,000 to \$5,000 per month to be in a shopping plaza.

THE REDUCED overhead translates into lower prices for customers, she said. "We have an everyday low price (80-70 percent off the retail value)."

Along with bargain, the Carns say they offer extras such as free home decorating, delivery and special ordering.

"We also make house calls," Cyra Carn added. "We have a home decorating consultant for people who are handicapped or can't get out of their houses."



When the lease ran out at their mall store, Cyra and Donald Carn set up a full-service furniture business in their Royal Oak warehouse.

The concept is a hit with shoppers, the owners contend.

"When we first opened, we were going to be strictly a living room/family room furniture store," Cyra Carn said. "We had so many calls for bed-

room and dining room furniture that we started to get into that too."

They've also increased their hours. Originally, the warehouse was open Wednesdays through Saturdays. But shoppers were coming in on Mondays

and Tuesdays when the employees unloaded new merchandise and did paper work. So the Carns decided to open the warehouse to customers on those days as well.

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