

Art show on menu

A reception and preview for Italian artist, Umberto del Negro, will be 5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6 at Restaurant Duglass, 29269 Southfield Road, Southfield. Del Negro is coming from Rome for the reception.

Included in the exhibit will be watercolors, china-ink drawings and bronze and ceramic sculpture.

Now in his mid-40s, Del Negro was born in Paularo, Italy, and studied at the School of Graphic Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg, Germany. He earned graduate degrees at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice, Italy. He also operates an art school in Italy for talented young people who might not otherwise have a chance to study arts and crafts.

His art is figurative, abstracted to strengthen the expressive and dramatic essentials.

Among the awards he has received are the Gold Medal, Tetradramma, Rome; Grand Prix Intercontinental d'Art, Venezia; Grande Diploma del Premio Giovane Europa, Rome; International Award 1 Quattro Mori Vada, Livorno; and the Silver Medal for Modern Arts in Lyon, France in 1979.

The wine reception is open to the public free. As a special tribute to the artist, Duglass will offer an Italian dinner following the reception. For reservations, call Restaurant Duglass, 424-9244.



The painting done this year by Umberto Del Negro is titled, "La Nonna Del Sindaco," ("The Grandmother of the Mayor"). Like many of his figures, this one has a look of uncomplaining resignation.

Goodbye to gold leaf

Continued from Page 1

DiLorenzo's daughters, who are antique collectors, were delighted with their father's work. They asked him to build copies of early American antiques. He has made a fireplace mantel, copied hutches, corner cupboards, dry sinks, tilt-top tables, benches, a pie-safe with a tin punched design front and picture frames. The result is a fledgling new business that produces on order sturdy copies of handmade antique furniture at half the price of the original.

As a young man, James DiLorenzo first worked with his father in Detroit on the former Bird Department Store building. Original murals and gold leaf art work in the General Motors Building was done by DiLorenzo. Thomas DiLorenzo's name appears on an archway in the interior of the Fisher Building as the decorator.

The DiLorenzos were contracted to decorate the lobby, walls and ceiling of the Fisher Theater. Thomas died just two weeks before the work was to start. His son, James, took over the job which took 17 months to complete.

A RECORD of buildings with DiLorenzo gold leaf artistry reads like a list of outstanding Detroit area church architecture. James DiLorenzo's gold leaf interior design work can be seen in the "Tower of the Apostles" inside Kirk of the Hills.

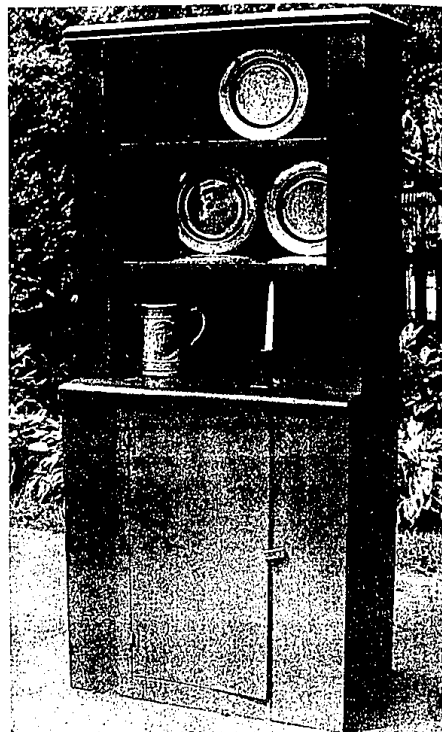
"I had been working in the Kirk for two days when lightning struck and fire destroyed all the scaffolding and the interior. Rebuilding delayed the job for one year," DiLorenzo recalled.

Other churches with the DiLorenzo touch of gold are Old Christ Church on East Jefferson, Old Mariner Church where they did the work after it was moved to its present location and St. Martha's Church on Joy and Greenfield.

"St. Martha's was the first Mrs. Henry Ford's church," DiLorenzo said. "My children were married in these churches."

The Michigan Seal in the Governor's office is an example of DiLorenzo's decorative talents.

"In the '20s and '30s, banks and theaters were highly decorated. It became too expensive. Now they modernize the buildings and cover the old decorations up with drop ceilings, acoustical tile and plastic lights," DiLorenzo said.



The hutch, above, built by James DiLorenzo.

Forming ballet company

The contracts are drawn up. The plans are made. All Doris Rapport's new "Ballet Jol de Vie Company" needs is dancers.

And the owner of Doris Rapport School of Dance & Fitness, Keego Harbor, is going to hold auditions for them during September. The age range is 13-35, both male and female.

Rapport said her organization would be "a semi-professional company with a positive future outlook, heading toward a professional corporation."

She said, "Our dancers will have the opportunity

to dance full length ballets as well as Broadway-style shows and, in the future, an opportunity to travel."

Rapport has experience as both a performer and choreographer. She said the company will start by doing some of her ballets and then broaden the repertoire to works by well-known choreographers. She has been planning the organization.

For information, interviews and auditions, call 682-5420 anytime.

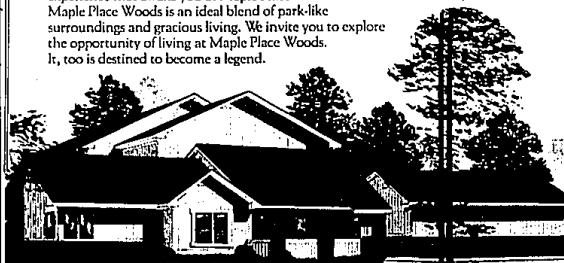
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