

Martha Lostrom editor/644-1100



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(F1E)

Colorful mix Abstracts, figures work together

By Corinne Abalt
staff writer

Talk about self-discipline. Pat Boyer of Birmingham somehow knew she must give up her first love, figure painting, and instead do abstracts if she was to really advance in figurative work the way she wanted to.

If that sounds hard, it was. But, it took her where she wanted to go. The result is a one-person show at Troy Art Gallery opening tomorrow with a 6:30-9 p.m. reception.

Boyer has always been ambitious for herself in the art world. She has a strong sense of color and continuity, which was recognized when she was a student at what was then Society of Arts and Crafts in the early and mid-1960s.

She returned there — now the Center for Creative Studies College of Art and Design — two decades later because, "I wanted exposure downtown. I became intensely involved with abstracts. I wanted to leave the figure. I had always concentrated on the figure, but I got frustrated."

She said that on her return to downtown Detroit, she was involved with young artists for three years. Later when she returned to figure work, she shared a model with several artists and found, to her delight, that the figurative and the abstracts played off each other.

AND AS SHE talked about the relationship between the two in the Troy Art Gallery, she said she may be working on several drawings or paintings in both areas at the same time, experiencing a compatibility rather than a conflict between the two.

"Abstracts are my work (from the standpoint of) looking into my own soul, my own mind. The figures are my response to people."

She said the abstracts heightened her awareness of herself and that, in turn, increased her awareness of the people around her. And her return to school added another dimension.

"The second time at CCS, three years, I spent a lot of time doing studio work. You can get very insulated out here (the suburbs). I'm very uncomfortable just being comfortable. I worked with Art (Kontzoullis) mostly. He gave me a studio right away and I went to work. I needed that atmosphere and the young people who put you on the spot."

There is a slow smile suggesting she liked being challenged.

SHE IS showing a variety of works on paper in the Troy Art Gallery show — oils, pastels, watercolor, acrylic. Most of the works are mixtures. All show a refined sense of color that is exciting, but a little more controlled and a little less flamboyant than in previous times.

However, with control, the figures have become looser, the lines longer and looser. There is a delightful spontaneity about these people. For several male nudes, however, seem to possess a controlled energy about to be unleashed.

Boyer hasn't lost her sense of the bizarre or her sense of humor, but there's a maturity here now that signals she has developed additional inner resources. She's moving beyond reflecting the people she's studied with (granted there are some illustrious ones) to becoming her own person artistically. A look at a book of small drawings she's done which symbolize the events in her life suggests that both abstracts and figures will move toward stronger, simpler forms.



C.D. STOFFER

Pat Boyer considers the watercolor at lower left a transition piece that leads into her new work such as the colorful abstract directly above it. The abstracts, which have personal connotations for her, also stand alone without explanation.

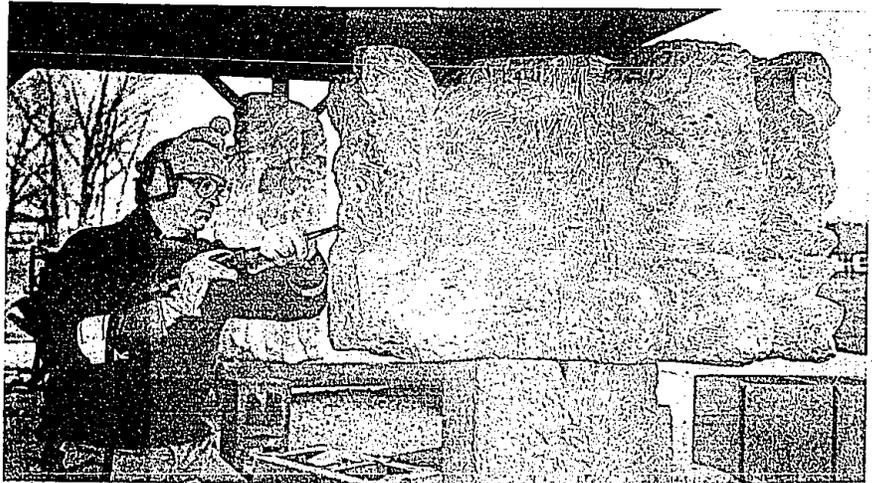
She has a strong sense of drama and excitement. The show continues through May 10. Hours are: 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 755 W. Big Beaver, Suite 131, Troy.



Wayne State University's annual spring dance concert on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, will feature a program of student and faculty choreographed pieces. Susan DeGrazia, above, of Livonia will be among the student dancers. "Walkman Variations" by guest artist Zo'eva Cohen, who teaches at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York, will also be performed. Tickets are \$5 general admission and \$4 for students and senior citizens. For more information, call 577-4237.

Spring events are planned

- **FREE CONCERT**
Oakway Symphony Brass Sextet offers a free concert on Sunday, April 11, at the Fire Station Senior Center in Livonia at 1:30 p.m. The program is funded by the Music Performance Trust Fund of the Federation of Musicians.
- **ANTIQUE SHOW**
Saline Antiques Show will be held on Sunday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Washenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. Admission is \$2; children 12 and under are admitted free. Call 429-9303 for more information.
- **GILBERT & SULLIVAN**
Celebrate spring with Cantata Academy's Gilbert & Sullivan concert on Sunday, April 27 at 4 p.m. at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit. The World class chorale will perform selections from the "H.M.S. Pinafore," "Pirates of Penzance" and "The Mikado." Wine and cheese is included in the \$10 admission charge. For more information, call 271-6946.
- **SPRING CONCERT**
The Marygrove College Chorale, directed by James Turner, will present an all-American program on Sunday, April 13, in the Marygrove Theatre, 8425 West Nichols at Wyoming, Detroit. Admission is \$5. For further information, call 862-8000 Ext. 390.
- **ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW**
Michigan Cultural Association's Arts and Crafts Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13, at the Eddie Edgar Arena at Lyndon and Farmington roads in Livonia. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **HOME SHOW**
The "Accent on Home" show will be held at the Livonia Mall Thursday through Sunday, April 17-20. Exhibitors will feature the latest in home building and home-improvement products and services for everything from the basement to the roof, through the kitchen and patio. The mall is located at Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads.
- **MUSIC AND DANCE**
"Heartsong Celebration", a concert to benefit the scholarship fund for the hearing impaired, will be held at Madonna College, 36800 Schoolcraft, in Livonia on Saturday, April 19, at 8 p.m. in the Kresge Hall Auditorium. Features will include a musical duet, short interpretive dance segments and a special multimedia presentation called "Loves Awakening." The musical lyrics will be signed. Tickets are \$7 general admission and \$5 for students. For more information, call 591-5056.
- **LYRIC OPERA**
Maestro Douglas Morrison of Livonia will conduct the Michigan Lyric Opera's production of Johann Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, at 8 p.m. at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville. Set in the elegant Vienna of the 1800s, it is the story of an elaborate practical joke between friends, played in revenge for a previous prank. Tickets are \$9 at the door.
- **ANTIQUES AT WONDERLAND**
Wonderland Center at 29859 Plymouth Road in Livonia will be the location for a new antiques show Thursday through Sunday, April 17-20. Forty exhibitors will display and sell a variety of antiques. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.
- **CABARET CONCERT**
The Schoolcraft College Community Wind Ensemble will present its spring cabaret concert with selections by Gershwin, Gould and Frainger on Sunday, April 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the Waterman Campus Center. Tickets are \$5 and include refreshments prepared by the college's culinary arts department. For ticket information, call 591-6400 Ext. 410.
- **BALLET PERFORMANCE**
Classical ballet returns to the Detroit Music Hall stage when the Royal Winnipeg Ballet appears for a limited engagement Wednesday through Saturday, April 16-19. It is the oldest existing professional ballet troupe in Canada. The performance will include a wide variety of dance styles and moods. Ticket prices are \$14 to \$25 depending on day of show. For more information, call the Music Hall Box Office, 963-7680.
- **STRING QUARTET**
The Fair Lane Music Guild's Lauretian Spring Quartet will play works by Beethoven, Havel and Dvorak at its last concert of the season on Sunday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. Performances will be at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus; concert tickets are \$8 regular, \$6 senior citizens and \$5 students, purchased at the door.
- **PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY**
Cellist Jeffrey Schow will be featured in the Plymouth Symphony Society's concert on Sunday, April 13 at Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, Joy Road west of Canton Center Road. The program will feature works by Brahms, Sibelius, Dvorak and Elbert. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens and full-time college students and \$1 for grades 12 and under.



DILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Friendly monsters take shape in a Plymouth Township park under the direction of sculptor Peter Rockwell. Coordinators Joanne Hulce and Janet and David Campbell plan a dedication for the finished three-piece stone carvings on Saturday, June 7. Groups and individuals are invited to drop by the park on Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha to watch the artworks take shape. For more information, call the township at 453-3992.