

Our Shopping Centers Turn Into Local Art Galleries

BY BETTY MASSON

Art shows in shopping malls are probably a natural result of our sprawling urbanization, our interest in beautifying our homes and our greater breadth of knowledge of art.

Whatever the sociologists may call it, it's a great thing and fills a real need in the suburbs.

Getting the season off to a good start are two in Observerland, one just closing in the Westland Shopping Center, with more than 1,000 paintings to choose from, plus decoupage, wood carvings, metal sculpture, glass and jewelry.

The other opens Monday, Sept. 28, and will run all week in the Livonia Mall. The latter will include demonstrations in weaving and spinning and dyeing.

The works of art and the demonstrations add color to a shopping trip for mundane things such as gym shoes, and with art in the mall you just might come home with something to add color to that dull living room wall as well.

IT'S FUN TO GO and look at the art, to look at the people looking and to talk to the artists and see what they have done and why. Some will be in both shows, as well as others in Observerland during the winter. There are many artists here, and seeing their works in shows such as these is somehow satisfying. Rembrandts and Rodins are greater works of art, but you can't talk to their creators.

E. Marcela Walton of Livonia is a painter who likes strong colors. Marie Tuthill of Livonia paints more in the style of English landscape artists.

Kathy Nyhus of Plymouth paints landscapes in oils. She also paints brightly-colored little girls on pieces of wood from old barns.

Another old barn wood painter is R. Bulmon of Livonia when he's not doing pastoral landscapes. His subjects are animals, and a memorable one is a saucy raccoon peaking through a large knothole.

THE JEWELRY MAKERS are Bert and Madeline Chandler of Redford Township.

They started making jewelry when he developed a heart condition. Now the whole family helps. Holidays are spent in the Upper Peninsula collecting rocks, which are brought home, tumbled and cut and set in handsome mountings.

Decoupage artists are well represented and their works are all slightly different. Mrs. Miriam Bass of Southfield started about a year ago and has a huge array of pictures. She has been working with a new process called *raquelle* which antiques her pictures even more.

The glass blower is Al Meyers of Alto, who is still a little astonished at where being laid off has led him. He was laid off from his job nine months ago and started glass-blowing with his brother-in-law. It's still a hobby, but may become a career. His wife contributes *crewl* paintings for the show.

Margie and Harold Shinnick spend their winters in Florida and travel to art shows in the north in their mobile home during the summer. An ex-Navy man, he turns out delicate paintings of sailing ships as well as larger paintings with three-dimensional effects through an unusual use of driftwood.

THE WOODCARVER is Joe Berstein of Oak Park. He isn't content to just carve animals—he teaches others including senior citizens in Redford Township.

Do you want to have your children's portraits painted? Or your dog's picture in pastels or oils? Three different painters display three different styles at Westland.

In the show, high prices are the exception. Most oil paintings cost between \$30 and \$125, with many at \$50. In some, the frames alone seem almost worth the asking price. In only a few do the painters seem highly optimistic.

More than 50 Michigan artists are represented in the show. These are our neighbors who are bringing art to the suburbs and making it fun.



PAINTINGS, PAINTINGS — There are supposed to be 1,000 paintings on display at Westland Shopping Center through Sept. 26. Here's a small bird's eye view by Observer Photographer Gerald J. Gazda.



PROUD JEWELER — Gerard Chandler of Redford Township is learning to make ear rings and necklaces, as he helps his parents at the art show.



GLASS ARTIST — Working with glass requires delicacy and deep concentration, as reflected in the face of Al Meyers of Alto.



MINI PAINTING — Mrs. Marge Lombardi of Westland finds it relaxing to paint small pictures as well as large ones.



JUST RESTING — Admiring works of art can be hard on the feet, so it's time for a rest.



A LIVONIA PAINTER — E. Marcela Walton of Livonia shows one of her favorite paintings. She specializes in landscapes and floral pairings.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MALL!

There's always something doing at Livonia Mall

SEPTEMBER 28 — OCTOBER 3

BLUM & KIRSCH HANDICRAFT SHOW

There will be ceramics being glazed and fired; a glass blower at work, a wool spinner, leatherworker, candles being molded; a potter at his wheel and a weaver at his loom. There is rug hooking; needlecraft; mosaic work; bonsai gardens; collaged; chalk drawings; graphics; copperwork; dried flower arranging; resin/craft; beadwork and the arts of flower making and origami.

See all the artists at work and possibly purchase some of their creations.

FAY THOMAS

Currently appearing at Al Green's Coach Stop in the Fisher Ridge.

IN PERSON

at

LADIES DAY

Show (Cinema) this

TUESDAY 9:30 a.m.

FREE MOVIE, COFFEE, DOOR PRIZES.

Meet You At The Mall

OPEN EVERY EVENING 'til 9 p.m.

There's always something going on at ...

LIVONIA MALL

7 MILE AT MIDDLEREE