

Rosenquist's 'Star Thief' installed at museum

The enigmatic and colorful Star Thief, a monumental painting by noted American Pop artist James Rosenquist, was installed at the Detroit Institute of Arts this week.

The painting, 48 feet long by 17 feet high, was Rosenquist's "diary" of his feelings and thoughts during the 1950 election period. Star Thief will remain on the north wall of the museum's Prentiss Court for three years on long-term loan from Burton Kaster of Chicago, Ill.

"At the start of his career Rosenquist painted billboards in Minneapolis and New York," said Jan van der Marck, DIA curator of Twentieth Century Art. "The situations of instability and dislocation he must have felt, painting huge inflated images that extended beyond his immediate vision and the reach of his arm, have carried over."

"In Star Thief he shifts the scale of the objects in their relation to each other — the bacon loaves larger than the women's head. The telephone cables diminish the size of the background grid. We are down the rabbit hole with Alice, in a world out of proportion."

Van der Marck's enthusiasm for Star Thief goes back to 1981. As director of the Miami Center for the Fine Arts and a member of Dade County Art in Public Places Committee, he advocated purchase of Star Thief for installation in a yet-to-be-built Eastern Airlines concourse at Miami International Airport. Eastern chairman Frank Borman opposed the selection. "Pierce artistic and political debates erupted. The airport project was tabled and the committee disbanded, but the painting was shown in 1983 at the Center

for the Fine Arts.

In 1983, Star Thief surfaced in a touring retrospective exhibition, which also included Rosenquist's 1976 86-foot anti-war statement, F-111 (1965). (F-111 sold for a Rosenquist record of \$2.09 million at the Scull auction last year.)

Rosenquist is generally considered to belong to the "hard core" of Pop art, a distinction he shares with Claes Oldenburg, Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

Great collectors of that era — Joseph Hirshhorn, Mary Slater, Robert Scull and Giuseppe Panza di Biumo — bought his work between 1961 and 1982. He was included in the landmark Americans 1983 exhibition. Philip Johnson commissioned him to paint a mural for the 1964 World's Fair in New York.

The National Gallery of Canada featured Rosenquist's work in a 1988 retrospective, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, did the same in 1972.

Rosenquist now lives in Arjepka, Florida, and keeps a studio in New York City.

The Detroit installation of Star Thief was another kind of monumental performance. The painting consists of 33 panels which must be bolted together. An elaborate system of cable, block and tackle was required to hoist the 1200-odd-pound work of art, after the panels were fitted together in rows like the pattern a bricklayer uses in putting up a wall.

Star Thief is suspended approximately 13-1/2 feet from the skylight

and 19 feet from the floor of the DIA's three-story Prentiss Court.

Unusual concert slated

Terranova, an unusual combination of artists — Frances Brockington, soprano, Theresa Jenkins, clarinet, and Michael Bryce, guitar — will perform art songs, arias and instrumental music at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 631 Woodward at Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

Bryce, a Southfield resident, a composer as well as a performer, has recently released a recording of his own works. He has also received a residency for composition at the

Millay Colony for the Arts. In addition to Bryce's compositions, the program will include works by Seymour Barab, Graciano Tarrago and Mauro Giuliani.

The recital is presented by the Classic Guild Society of Michigan with support from Wayne State University and the Touring Arts program of Michigan Council for the Arts.

Tickets are \$5 with those for students \$3. For information, call 778-9844.

Artrain tours state with Cranbrook collection

To honor the Sesquicentennial, Michigan Artrain's exhibition will share the collection of the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills with people throughout the state.

The Cranbrook ideal of uniting beauty and function, art and environment, is traced in the show from the works of its founders to current artists-in-residence.

The exhibition, "The Cranbrook Vision: Past and Present," will travel to 25 communities in Michigan from March through October.

The Downriver Council for the Arts will sponsor Artrain's visit in Romulus on March 25-26. During the following two weeks, both Plymouth (April 2-3) and Walled Lake (April 9-15) will sponsor an Artrain visit.

Included in the show are architectural designs and furniture for Cranbrook by Elio Saarinen and his son, Eero. Elio Saarinen designed many of the present Cranbrook buildings and their furnishings to create a harmonious environment for work and study.

Eero Saarinen is best known as the architect of Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C., and the famous St. Louis arch. Other works on display include sculpture by Carl Milles and Marshall Fredericks, ceramics by Julia Grotell and metalwork by Harry Bertola. Other disciplines exhibited are painting, printmaking and textiles.

ARTTRAIN'S EXTERIOR is a work of art as well. Colorful murals decorate each car. One of the cars, designed by Cranbrook Academy graduate, Susan Pitt, brings together familiar American characters from a rodeo cowboy to comic book superhero Flash Gordon. Another car, with portraits of the Statue of Liberty and Dr. Martin Luther King, expresses the American dream of freedom for all.

As the weather turns warm, other Artrain cars will be transformed into a salute to the Sesquicentennial with designs by Ypsalanti Tom Dodd and Carolyn McKewen. Dodd, who teaches art at Community High School in Ann Arbor, is a commissioner of the Michigan Sesquicentennial and also assisted in the creation of the Sesquicentennial logo. McKewen is a faculty member of Henry Ford Community College and a freelance graphic designer.

In addition to three gallery cars, Artrain houses an audio-visual area for viewing an introductory presentation about "The Cranbrook Vision." The final car in the Artrain tour is a studio where both staff and community artists demonstrate their craft for visitors.

In its 16 years of existence, Michigan-based Artrain has visited over 250 communities in 23 states.

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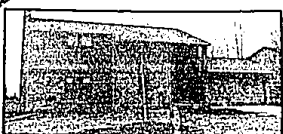
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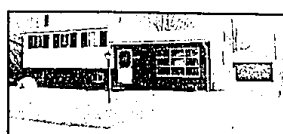
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326-2000	477-1111	477-1111	326-2000	261-0700	261-0700	326-2000	261-0700	477-1111
		34278 Cast Ct., \$115,000	19111 Hester Rd., \$87,500	21008 Walden, \$43,500	24020 Ternack, \$60,000	31411 Hazelwood, \$46,000	31411 Hazelwood, \$46,000	
		5200 North Way, \$117,500	35002 Vargo, \$160,500	12511 Dorset, \$39,950	25053 Bentley, \$83,900	25053 Bentley, \$83,900	25053 Bentley, \$83,900	
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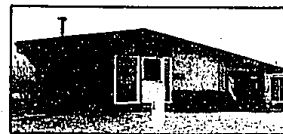
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