

Fabric painting easier than ever to do

WELL, SPRING is finally here. So what do you wear outside? In Michigan, you need to carry with you at all times: a parka and snow shoes, a sweater, jacket, sweatshirt, T-shirt and tank top. For the next three months, we could have any type of weather so carry everything from ear muffs to beach thongs.

Of those items of apparel mentioned, we Americans have a fixation with T-shirts. We can't stand to

see them without art, words or photos screened on them. They are like blank pages waiting to be filled. We all have something we would like to say on a T-shirt. But most fall short when it comes to actually painting on the shirt.

As the customers at our store often ask, "Where's the stuff you paint on shirts with?" However you say it, painting on fabric — be it a T-shirt or a lampshade — is a lot of fun. And recently it has become much easier. Probably the oldest pen for mark-

ing on material is the "Rub-a-Dub" laundry marking pen. You know what? It's still good. It is a slightly pointed felt tip pen full of black ink which is permanent on fabric and is laundry proof.

So why did it take the manufacturer Marvy so long to come out with its line of fabric markers? We're not sure, but the line is finally developed to the point where it comes in 12 colors and costs \$2.75 per marker. This is a larger marker with a pointed nib. The ink does not need to be heat set, writes on any material, is water and chlorine resistant and finally is non-toxic.

BUT DON'T LIMIT your thinking to just T-shirts. Lam shades, pillows, tennis shoes, canvas bags and more are all screaming for an artistic splash of color.

"Fabric Fun" by Pentel is a real easy way for kids to color their shirts and tote bags with pastel dyes. They also are permanent on clothes and fabrics. Just use them

like a crayon, then when you are finished drawing you must heat set (simple ironing) before you wash the garment. These really work. A set of seven is only \$1.20 and a set of 15 is \$2.29.

Before I go on, I must say that any acrylic paint is permanent on fabric. The problem with even thin acrylics is that when the paint dries, it becomes stiff in the material. Liquitex recommends the addition of a small amount of "gloss medium and varnish" into the paint for permanence. Grumbacher recommends that if one wishes to airbrush with acrylics on material, the paint should be thinned with alcohol.

In my mind, all fabric paints are in some way inferior to Deka fabric dyes. The dyes are rich, completely permanent and come in a wide range of colors including fluorescents and metallics. Pearl is one of my favorites because any color you add to it takes on an iridescence. Even whites are greatly helped by the presence of pearl.



artifacts
David Messing

Deka dyes stay soft in the material and even large, solid colors just look like dyed areas instead of crusty painted area. These colors need to be heat set. This merely means turning the item inside out and ironing. Deka dyes are water-based, non-stiffening, non-fading, machine washable and dry cleanable. And can be used on all types of light-colored fabrics. The most popular size is \$1.65, but it does come in large sizes.

THE "IRON-ON" feature makes it possible to paint or airbrush on paper and then allows for the transfer of your art with heat to the material. The most popular member of the

Deka family is "Perma Air" — a preblended mixture of Deka dyes (2 1/2 ounces for \$2.79). The eyedropper flitpot makes it ideal for airbrushing.

I have had customers bring in their wearable pieces of art and I am amazed at the results. As I mentioned, at the Art Store & More, we teach airbrush and part of our course is airbrushing of fabric. I have seen students bring in wearables with other brands of fabric paint but nothing as yet compares with Deka.

David Messing has been an art teacher for more than 10 years. He is also the owner of the Art Store & More in Livonia.



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

briefly speaking

● **LACORDA RECITAL**
LaCorda will present the second recital in its Benchmark series at 4:30 p.m. Sunday in Kresge Hall, Madonna College, Livonia.

The program will feature a string duo and a string trio by Mozart, and a piano quintet by Brahms. This Plymouth-based group is widely known for its well-chosen repertoire. They are currently appearing at the Whitney restaurant in Detroit at the Sunday brunches. Madonna is located at 3600 Schoolcraft Road, Levon. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students. For more information, call 469-8298.

● **HULL-SKERITT EXHIBIT**
Opening of the Back Door Studio, 13222 Michigan Avenue, between Schaefer and Greenfield road, will be marked with exhibits by area artists Beth Hull and Lee Skeritt. A reception for the artists will be held from 3-7 p.m. Saturday.

Both Hull of Southfield and Skeritt of Livonia are former Visual Art Association of Livonia (VAAL) instructors. Skeritt will exhibit recent drawings and paintings. Hull, formerly of Livonia, will show canvas constructions and paintings. The show will continue through April 30. The gallery will be open from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

● **PROGRESSIVE DINNER**
The third annual progressive dinner benefiting restoration of the Alexander Blue House in Livonia's historical village will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 30, with the opening and closing stops set for American House, the retirement facility that now occupies the former Blue House site. Tickets are \$25. They are available at the LOVE office in Livonia City Hall or by calling 422-7036.

● **ISRAELI ART**
"Three Generations of Israeli Art" will be an exhibit at Gallery Yaktir, 28080 Inkster, Southfield. Show hours are noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, call 352-4290.

● **TRAVEL SLIDE SHOW**
Planning your next trip abroad? Take a slide show vacation as Nick and Leslie Parson narrate a May-time trip through Britain featuring natural history. The Carl Sandburg Branch of the Livonia Public Library will host this travelogue 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 19. Admission is free. Registration may be made at

the library, 30100 Seven Mile Road, or by calling 476-0700.

● **VAAL CLASS/WORKSHOPS**
Registrations are being accepted for a Visual Arts Association of Livonia class in general photography, taught by award-winning photographer Norbert Davert, and three workshops: Pastels, Saturday April 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Play of Patterns, (watercolor and mixed media), 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 30; and the Big Picture (large scale watercolor), Friday-Saturday, May 20-21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Classes are held in Jefferson Center, Room 24, 9501 Henry Road, Livonia. For more information, call Marge Masak, VAAL class chairwoman, 464-6772.

● **FARMINGTON ARTISTS**
The Farmington Artist's Club spring art exhibit will be held at Mercy Center the weekend of April 28-May 1. The show features approximately 100 juried art works and with budget-priced unframed work.

Mercy Center is located at 28890 Eleven Mile Road, east of Middlebelt, Gate 4 entrance. There is no admission charge.

● **STUDENT ART EXHIBIT**
A student art exhibit will be held at Madonna College, Livonia, through Sunday, April 17, in the Exhibit Gallery, Library Wing.

Art students will display charcoal and pencil drawings, oil and watercolors, commercial art, computer art, advertising, oriental brushwork, and sculpture.

● **CHORALE CONCERT**
The Dearborn Community Chorus, under the direction of Nancy Cox, will present its spring concert, "We're Doing a Show" at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 17, in the Dearborn High School auditorium. Tickets are \$4. For more information, call 943-2354.

● **FORD TRIBUTE**
The International Opera Theatre will present a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 22, commemorating the 125th birthday anniversary of pioneer automaker Henry Ford, and paying tribute to the Ford Dynasty.

The concert, in the Henry Ford Centennial Library, will focus on Ford, the agriculturist, the nature lover, the businessman and the music lover. Tickets are \$10 and will include a chance in a benefit drawing for a getaway weekend for two at the Hyatt-Regency-Deerborn. For more information, call Dino Valle, 525-1111.

Livonia Artists exhibit

Anyone may attend the annual Livonia Artists Club show/sale 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday in Carl Sandburg Library, 30100 Seven Mile, Livonia. Judging the show will be Joanne Haase. Refreshments will be served. Two of the artists/members who will have works on display are Joan Welch (left) of Dearborn and Martha Barnes of Northville.



FOUR BEDROOM BRICK COLONIAL. Neatly kept colonial in convenient location, Central air, 2 1/2 baths, full basement, deck, formal dining room, and appliances. Immediate occupancy. Move-in condition. \$129,900. 477-1111.



SUPER-SHARP Move in condition, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath. Family room with fireplace, beautiful landscaping, kitchen completely re-done, all new appliances & floor. \$132,800. 851-1900.



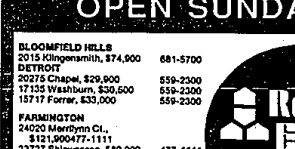
ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL NOVI CONDO. End unit, 2 1/2 baths, living room with fireplace, private patio off kitchen, attached garage \$98,500. 651-1900



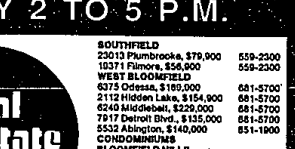
LOOK AT THE WORLD FROM KITCHEN. Very clean 3 bedroom ranch in Southfield school district. Large kitchen with eating space looking out at nice back yard with 2 big maple trees. \$53,900. 659-2300.



CROSSWINDS OF FARMINGTON HILLS. Better than new 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath overhouse with basement. Living room with fireplace, 2 skylites, cathedral ceiling. All window treatments, stove, refrigerator, washer & dryer included. Central air, carpet. \$69,900. 477-1111.



FARMINGTON HILLS 3040 Meadowhill, \$159,900 477-1111
37998 Meadowhill, \$172,500 477-1111
21420 Parklane, \$187,000 477-1111
29559 Lakeside, \$24,500 477-1111
23258 Tuck Rd., \$70,000 477-1111
37842 Eight Mile, \$129,000 477-1111
33532 Oak Pointe Circle, \$157,000 477-1111



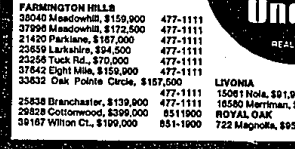
SOUTHFIELD 23013 PlumBrook, \$79,900 659-2300
19371 Riviera, \$56,900 659-2300
WEST BLOOMFIELD 6375 Odessa, \$189,000 681-8700
2112 Hidden Lake, \$194,000 681-8700
6240 Alldredge, \$225,000 681-8700
7817 Detroit Blvd., \$135,000 681-8700
6532 Abington, \$140,000 651-1900



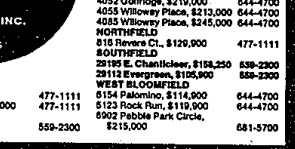
ONLY IN YOUR DREAMS! Cream puff colonial with central air, security system, family room with fireplace and much, much more. All neutral colors, formal basement, huge master suite and formal dining room. It's got it all! \$26,000. 644-4700.



NEWER CLASSIC TUDOR. Lovely house with many niceties. Slide entrance garage, upstairs computer room, central air, four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and a deck. Family neighborhood and near expressway. \$172,500. 477-1111.



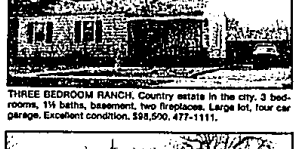
THREE BEDROOM RANCH. Country estate in the city, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, basement, two fireplaces. Large lot, four car garage. Excellent condition. \$88,900. 477-1111.



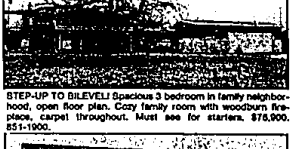
SHARP CONTEMPORARY 3 bedroom, 1,560 square foot town-house, neutral decor throughout. Fireplace, dining room, formal cabineetry in kitchen. \$156,250. 659-2300.



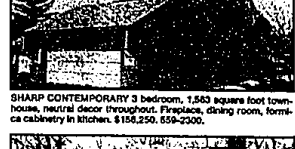
FARMINGTON HILLS. 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Colonial with lovely hardwood floors. \$189,900. 345-6430.



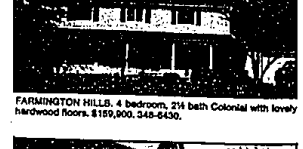
ABSOLUTE MOVE-IN CONDITION. New carpet, new windows, window treatments, superb landscaping. Fireplace in master bedroom, in-law suite, 4th bedroom with private bath. \$149,500. 477-1111.



STEP-UP TO BILEVEL. Spacious 3 bedroom in family neighborhood, open floor plan. Cozy family room with woodburn fireplace, carpet throughout. Must see for starters. \$76,900. 851-1900.



SOUTHFIELD CLUSTER OPTION. Great sell. Country style living, 2 acres off private wooded setting. Completely updated corner lot house with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Zoned for horses. Owner transferred. \$74,900. 659-2300.



WILL NEGOTIATE. Luxurious Bloomfield First Floor Ranch in home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Zoned for horses. Owner transferred. \$74,900. 681-8700.