

review

Nawara Gallery closes with show of strength

By Manon McIlgeard
special writer

It is always sad when an art gallery closes its doors, especially when it is one which for the last 18 months has mounted a series of exciting exhibitions and introduced artists new to the local art scene.

Gallery director Lucille Nawara explained that while the backers have other plans for the space in Walled Lake, she will continue to consult and represent the artists she has exhibited.

"It has been a stimulating but sometimes frustrating period in my life, and now I'm eager to get back to my own painting," said Nawara, who has an unerring eye for interesting, often unusual work.

There has been no time to spare for her own artwork; quite apart from selecting and hanging the shows, she has had the onerous task of running the gallery single-handed.

"CONTEMPORARY STILL-LIFE Paintings and Prints" is a fitting finale — no dullish groupings of lackluster objects in these still-lives exuberantly brought to life, many by Michigan artists.

Mary Aro makes her luminous watercolors eloquent in objective compositions made tremendously powerful with (obviously) autobiographical material. She, quite lovingly, arranges stones (always the same ones), bare tree branches and roots, autumnal leaves, fruits, flowers or leaf-patterned cloths, and often

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a strip of anecdotal painting, to depict the richness and starkness of nature with soft, glowing colors.

In contrast, Ann Dase Loveland's exuberance spills over into extravagant watercolors of vases of flowers massed together and brilliantly beaded scarves placed next to a medley of groceries, like milk cartons, egg boxes and soup tins. It is as though the supermarket wares have been unpacked in a hurry onto the same table.

In an unusual slanting perspective, Denise Lisecki's prints are expressionistic rather than petty. Equally striking are Sondra Freckleton's vivid screenprints from the workshop of Stewart and Stewart of Birmingham. Nawara pointed out an interesting inter-relationship between these artists. Freckleton once taught Mary Aro. Aro, in turn, taught Loveland. And Lisecki is Freckleton's close friend.

GERALD MULKA uses power

tools for his almost transparent, reductive woodcuts of teapots and rows of jars placed in uneven rows, with unusual grooves and markings not often found in this medium. Janet Fish's more conventional color woodcut "Pears and Mitten" is distinctive for its contrasting nuances of transparent and opaque objects. Tom Humes, whose work was well received in last year's "Apocalypse Now" exhibition at the Michigan Gallery, paints his small oil on wood or on masonite tableaux with a skill akin to the painterliness of a Flemish master. His still-life fruits and kitchen, circa the 1950s, have the charm, light and precision of the 17th Century.

Ross Arkell heads the clay-modeling department at General Motors and the antique dolls and toys he collects are included in his oil-board exteriors and interiors with humor and élan. These scenes have an intense, sketchy quality.

There are also some dramatically introspective oil/linen canvases by Ilene Curtis, who achieves a feeling of surrealistic mystery with dense colors, day-glo lights and hanging branches which interact with objects of clear and painted glass.

The exhibition which continues through Aug. 20, is well worth a drive through still countifurled terrain to the Nawara Gallery, 1160 Welch Road, Walled Lake, just north of Maple. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.



House tour planned

This year's Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation house tour takes place noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28. The Gilbert mansion, pictured, the centerpiece of the tour, is one of seven houses and apartments open to the four guests. The house, built in 1881 is now

apartments. Two of them will be open for touring. Tour tickets are available at booths at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron and at Cross Street Bridge. They are \$4 adults, \$3 seniors and \$2 for children 12 and under.

Spend Sunday in Troy

Troy Museum and Historic Village's eighth annual summer sights and sounds concert will be 1-5 p.m. Sunday. In conjunction with the current "Fire!" exhibit, this year's theme is an antique fire engine show and muster.

Visitors will have an opportunity

to get a close look at some of the area's antique fire engines and watch as local fire fighters compete in First Alarm and Bucket Brigade Competitions.

On the Village Green, craftsmen will demonstrate a variety of 19th century activities. Music in the Gazebo will be provided by the De-

troit Brass Society. Refreshments will be available.

The Troy Museum is located on 60 W. Watlies Rd. at the corner of Livernois. Free parking and shuttle service are available from the nearby Walsh College at 3838 Livernois. General admission is free. For more information, call 524-3576.

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