

Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



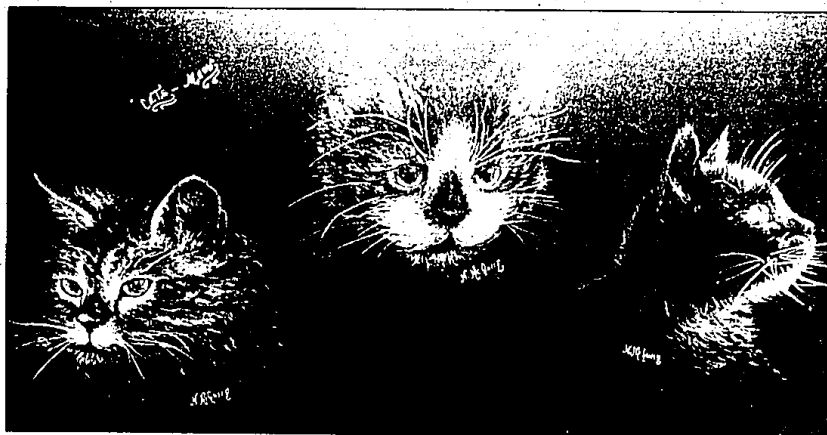
Bob Sklar editor/591-2300

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(F1E)



In "Detroit III," Patricia Groenenboom, who teaches art in Detroit, graphically illustrates a down-and-out resident of the Delray area standing in front of a burned-out church, once a historic architectural treasure. The print, matted but unframed, sells for \$33.



"Cat's Meow," by Norma McQueen, is rendered with a white-colored pencil on a black ground. It won the People's Choice

Award last spring at the annual Garden City Public Library art show.

On exhibit

Gallery's niche: locally made fine art

By Linda Ann Chomin
special writer

WHEN THE Art Gallery opened in June 1989, it provided Garden City residents access to a local fine-art gallery for the first time in the city's history.

From the beginning, Garden City Fine Arts Association members enthusiastically encouraged and supported the cultural venture.

The 40-member association, formed in 1982, is a group of artists from Garden City, Livonia,

Westland, Redford, Dearborn, Wayne and other surrounding communities dedicated to providing a forum for the visual arts.

The nonprofit gallery's purpose is twofold: to give artists the

chance to display and sell fine art without being charged gallery commissions, which, on average, range from 30-60 percent. Commissions at The Art Gallery are 20 percent.

The lower commission, in turn, enables the artists exhibiting their creations, making original art available to beginning collectors, as well as seasoned veterans.

"We ask the artists to keep their prices affordable," said curator Norma McQueen during an interview at the gallery. McQueen and other gallery workers are volunteers. She's president of the Garden City Fine Arts Association and a practicing artist herself.

"Prices run from \$20 to \$250 with an average range of \$80 to

\$125," McQueen said.

THE GALLERY handles 14 artists working in a variety of media, including acrylic, watercolor, oil, pen and ink, colored pencil and sculpture. "As far as the type of art we handle, it's more traditional," McQueen said, "some impressionistic, some abstract, but, in general, it's of the realistic type."

Patricia Groenenboom's series of graphite prints capture the realism of living in Detroit's inner city with their emotionally wrenching scenes. In "Detroit II," the Detroit art teacher accurately depicts the historic architecture of Jefferson Avenue, which, once dignified, is now dilapidated and decayed.

"Patricia's pieces seem depressing when only viewing the deteriorating buildings, but when people look up into her clouds, they see an eye with wings, the eye of the angel," McQueen said. "But then again, the eye could also be seen as evil."

In "Detroit III," Groenenboom graphically illustrates in black and white a down-and-out, intoxicated resident of the Delray area standing in front of a burned-out church, once a historic architectural treasure.

McQueen's work, which also hangs in the gallery, has won several awards. Her colored pencil rendering of three different views of a cat's head, "Cat's Meow," won the People's Choice Award last spring at the annual Garden City Public Library art show. It is created with a white pencil upon a black background.

Her watercolor, "Autumn Leaves," won second place and the People's Choice Award last December at the Sheridan Square holiday juried show.

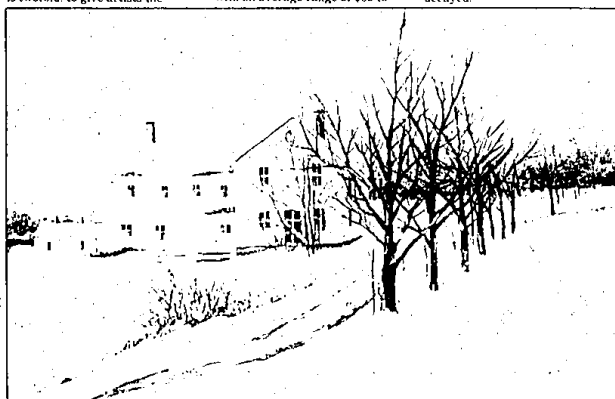
Her watercolor, "Favorite Season," depicts autumn by using a flurry of leaves in ochre, sepia and orange. "I like watercolor, but it's difficult to control," McQueen said.

GARDEN CITY artist Barbara Gosney exhibits her time-consuming pen and ink sketches at The Art Gallery. Created by "using the pointillist method," Gosney produced a composite sketch of Garden City's historic architecture, which, dot-by-dot, took 44 hours to complete.

"Exhibiting at a gallery is a way to make a community aware of our God-given talents," Gosney said.

"It is very important for artists to display their work. The Garden City gallery gives us an opportunity to get into the market world."

McQueen concurs: "The gallery gives a lot of artists exposure. Otherwise they'd be hanging in their basements or hidden in closets or whatever."



Gaye E. Oliver's "Snow Bound" is an oil painting with white dominating the landscape. She uses blues to bring out the white of the snow. A single-lane country road runs through the piece, disappearing into the far horizon. The work sells for \$150.



"Favorite Season" is the title of this watercolor painting by Norma McQueen. The impressionistic work depicts autumn, using a flurry of leaves painted in ochre, sepia and orange.

McQueen said Richard Cromwell's aryles sell "extremely well" at the gallery. Cromwell, of Dearborn Heights, paints landscapes of lighthouses and ships. In his "Henderson Lanes Tug," shades of dark blue dominate the piece, making the scene eerie and moody.

The Art Gallery has a guardian angel in the human form of Robert Sheridan, owner of Sheridan Square, where the gallery is located.

According to McQueen, when a store vacated the square in 1989, Sheridan alerted the Garden City Fine Arts Association "Through his generosity, the gallery has been

a success," McQueen said. Sheridan is a budding sculptor. His bronze seated nude displays his inborn talent for sculpting quite nicely.

On Saturday, Jan. 19, the gallery hosts a portrait drawing workshop with Julie Giordano from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Giordano, a portrait artist, owns J. Giordano Gallery in Northville. Cost of the portrait workshop is \$25.

The Art Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Thursday, Saturday. The Art Gallery is in Sheridan Square, 20116 Ford Road, Garden City. Call Norma McQueen at 261-0279.

Staff photos by Art Emanuele

How to hone your art skills; vacation exhibit a winner

ARTSY ENCOUNTERS:

• If you like art but are short on self-confidence, check out VAAAL. Visual Art Association of Livonia winter classes and workshops start Monday, Jan. 28.

VAAAL's mission? To promote skill building through studio work and twice-yearly exhibits. All sessions are open to the public, although VAAAL members receive reduced tuition and exhibit fees.

Classes span the arts spectrum: watercolor, monotypes, oil portraits, drawing and sketching, even independent study.

Workshops include working in the medium of your choice, learning how to use principles of design, mastering color, and watercolor painting. Amateurs they're not. The faculty boasts local art pros Edee Joppich,

Jerrine Habsburg, Marjorie Chellstorp, Lily Dudgeon, Audrey DiMarco and Lin Baum.

Students are there to learn, not pass the time, says Joppich, a faculty member for 10 years. This term, the nationally honored watercolorist is teaching a watercolor class and a mastering-color workshop.

"They're serious students," Joppich said. "Many of them have been painting for years. And I've seen them improve and advance in a remarkable way."

"Many of them," the Farmington Hills resident said, "are entering juried competition in and out of state. They continue to study. That shows the serious direction of their work."

"For the most part, they're not just taking classes for something to do, but rather they recognize they



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have a special gift and are serious about developing it.

Joppich especially likes learning from her students. "They certainly keep me challenged."

Students, who come from throughout the state, meet at the Jefferson Center in Livonia. To register, call VAAAL's class and workshop coordinator, Marge Maske, 464-6772.

A dedicated, respected community group, VAAAL draws financial sup-

port from the Livonia Arts Commission, the city of Livonia and the Livonia Cultural League.

VAAAL might be the right tonic for your midwinter blues.

• It's a fascinating exhibit on that American icon, the vacation. And it's at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

From steamer trunks to souvenirs, a 19th-century stagecoach to a 1950s family station wagon, and vintage sports equipment to vintage travel clothes, the \$275,000 exhibit explores 150 years of change in how Americans have planned, packed for, traveled to, enjoyed and remembered their vacations.

It's funded by AAA-Michigan and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Henry Ford Museum's first traveling exhibit, "Americans On Vacation," is based on a chapter in the 1988 book, "Leisure and Entertainment in America," by staff curator Donna B. Braden.

• A cobblestone building that once was a 19th-century blacksmith shop for reshoeing horses and repairing farm implements still stands at 14 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

The building, today used for storage, is part of the Ward Eagle Office Village, former dairy farm of a Farmington Township supervisor and justice of the peace.

The farmhouse also has been preserved by West Bloomfield developers Stan Finsilver and David Friedman, who strove to retain historical

vestiges of the site, first settled in 1826 by Samuel Bryan.

It's fun to do something with historic buildings. You have a property that nobody else has. You have something with a little flavor," Fin silver said.

The Greek Revival farmhouse dates back to 1841. Ward Eagle (1891-1967) was a prominent member of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, organized in 1916.

He traveled around the state persuading farmers to become members for cooperative marketing and grading of milk," Ruth Roth Mochlman's 1980 history book, "If Walls Could Talk: Heritage Homes of Farmington," tells us.

Bob Sklar is assistant managing editor for special projects.