

Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



Mary Klemic editor/644-1100

Thursday, October 24, 1991 O&E

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Art Beat

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Farmington Hills artist Elaine Grohman will present an art exhibit and sale of original work and limited edition prints 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday at the Village Mall, Grand River and Farmington Road, in Farmington, to help raise money for the Woodcreek Elementary PTA in Farmington Hills. Village Mall has donated space for the exhibit, and a framing vendor in the area will contribute 10 percent of sales. Grohman's work in fine art calligraphy has been shown around the area, and she has visited schools and talked to students about becoming an artist. For more information on the exhibit and sale, call her at 855-3456.

The Private Collection Gallery, 6738A Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple in West Bloomfield, is presenting an exhibit of progressive designs and sculptural pieces by three of the country's leading glass artists: Berry Entner, David Goldhagen and Tom Phlabaum, through October. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. Call 737-4050.

One more week remains to see the whimsical, poignant and hilarious works by Lynne Loshbaugh at Mesa Arts, 32800 Franklin Road in Franklin. Call 851-9949.

A recent interview with legendary Czechoslovakian glass artists Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtova provided a reminder of the importance of art as a language understood the world over.

Although a language barrier limited the couple's ability to express themselves in English, they were able to bridge the gap with art.

When Brychtova couldn't find the English word to describe a bird cast in ice blue glass, she searched a dictionary for its Czechoslovakian equivalent. She turned the pages back and forth in a feverish attempt to find the English translation for the nocturnal bird.

"It's a little bird always in the night," she said.

As a last resort, she called for Libensky to help resolve the dilemma. He doesn't speak English. After much discussion between the husband and wife glass-making duo, she said, "Stanislav write bird."

She motioned for a notebook and a fountain pen. In a matter of seconds using a minimum of lines, he had drawn an owl. When words failed, the language of art transcended all barriers.

A retrospective spanning more than three decades of the couple's glass sculpture is on display through Saturday at Habitat Galleries, 32555 Northwestern Highway, Suite 45 in the Triatira Office Complex in Farmington Hills.

Arts resignation saddens many

By Mary Klemic staff writer

Reaction to Barbara Goldman's resignation from Michigan's restructuring arts council painted a less than flattering picture of Gov. John Engler's administration.

The Birmingham resident announced her resignation Oct. 16, appointed by Gov. James Blanchard, she had been executive director of the council for 6 1/2 years.

Oct. 16 was also the first meeting of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, a 15-member panel that consolidates the Michigan Council for the Arts and the Committee on Art in Public Places. That day, the council released \$1 million

in grants, but withheld another \$3 million.

"I'M NOT at all surprised," Marilyn Wheaton of the Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan said about Goldman's resignation.

"I'm surprised Barbara was able to continue working as long as she did under the circumstances of this administration's obvious lack of desire to have government play a role in support of the arts. I think she was very committed to continue as long as she did."



B. Goldman

It's hard to work when you're an advocate of a position opposite that of the administration, said state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

"When the Nazis took over France, a lot of people didn't mean to work under them," he said. "You don't want to work under an administration you don't believe in."

FAXON SAID he thought Goldman was "discreetly" forced out by Engler. However, Goldman said she wasn't forced out at all, but left because the administration's priorities have changed toward the arts.

"I spent 6 1/2 years with the council," she said. "We've made great strides. We increased (arts) funding by more than 33 percent . . . we in-

creased the educational program . . . We did a lot. We continued to be a national leader."

"But the atmosphere is not as supportive as it was before. I just felt it was time for me to move on. I'm really not the person to carry out the priorities of this administration."

Engler's office was unavailable for comment.

GOLDMAN WAS praised for what Kenneth Gross, director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association, called her aggressive support of the arts.

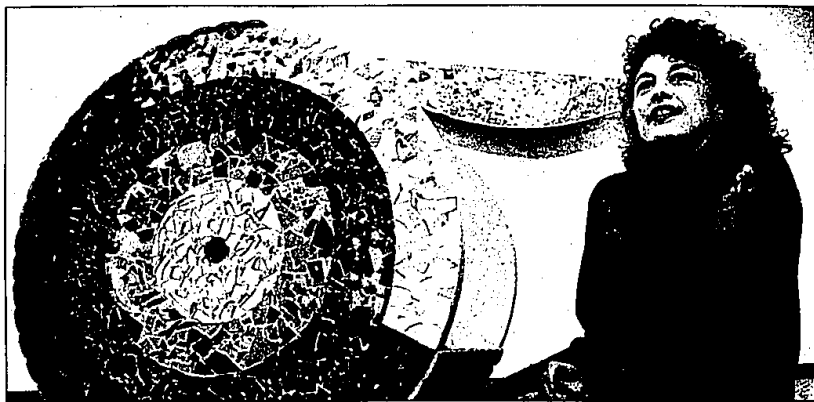
"I've worked with Barbara a long time," Gross said. "It's a loss to the arts community, but I'm certain that she'll be actively involved."

Among many other activities, Goldman was instrumental in New Initiatives for the Arts, a program providing opportunities for minority artists, said Betty Ruedisuel, executive director of the Rochester Arts Commission. The Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester hosted one of the program's opening shows in 1990.

"I think she was a very strong advocate for the arts. Let's make it happen," Ruedisuel said. "She will be missed."

Wheaton lauded Goldman and her predecessor, E. Ray Scott, as "the caliber of people you need in that position."

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Susan Tunick makes ceramic mosaic sculptures and wall reliefs out of broken pieces of pottery and ceramics. Her work is now showing at the Rubiner Gallery in West Bloomfield.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Smashing success

Ceramic mosaic artist breaking into own work

By Mary Klemic staff writer

Exhibitions listing, 6D

CHIPS OF china. Pulverized porcelain. Smashed table settings. Remnants of a disastrous dinner party? No, fragments of artist Susan Tunick's imagination.

In Tunick's hands, broken pieces of ceramics and mirrors and painted grout become complete mosaics for freestanding sculptures and wall reliefs. Her first one-person exhibit in Michigan is at the Rubiner Gallery, Suite 430A at 7001 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield, through Friday, Nov. 1.

"You start out with so many objects," said Tunick, who lives and works in New York City. "You know what you're going toward in terms of the kind of mood, but you're not sure how you're going to get these characteristics."

"We felt that the work was very unusual and extremely well executed," Allen Rubiner of the gallery said. "We were quite excited."

AT FIRST glance, the colorful works look like large pieces of candy, or giant kaleidoscopes.

Examining one closely, however, details — and patterns — emerge, light from the room sliding like water over and around the angles and surfaces. There's a bright Mexican design from a piece of pottery, a leaf, a bit of cup handle, shards in different shapes and solid colors.

The viewer puts the pieces together for a message, or wonders where they came from. Another work shows a graduation — black on one side turning to gray on the other. It's a serious work because Tunick wanted the color change to be smooth.

"It takes concentration. I wanted to catch a mood that was somber."

Another narrow work is curved on the bottom and straight on the top. Looking at it, the viewer can feel a rocking motion. With another work, Tunick cut a 33-inch circle in half and reattached it so the edges were unaligned.

"My interest is in circular forms and curves. I was curious to take a circle and alter it slightly."

TUNICK'S MATERIALS come from thrift shops, relatives or friends. They include ceramic room numbers or tiles as well as cups, saucers or plates.

After breaking the objects, Tunick arranges the pieces to her satisfaction. She puts tape on top of them so they can be moved without losing the arrangement.

Tunick puts this arrangement on a wood surface she has spread with glue. After this dries, she decides whether to put in grout.

"When you break things, you have this fabulous option of just keeping breaking them until they're splintered, or keeping them big."

SOME PIECES are left large enough to be recognized, such as a bunch of grapes, or the words "Made in USA."

"You're not only working with a sign, you're working with a story line. It has content to it, it has memory of people."

"One thing that I have found is that all people who have had the luxury of sitting down and eating from a dish have an unconscious memory of the pattern."

"If somebody is jarred into remembering things . . . it's great fun. It gives them the confidence they have a visual memory. It's a wonderful side adventure."

TUNICK, WHO earned her master of fine arts and bachelor of arts degrees from Bennington College in Vermont, founded the New York State Branch of the Friends of Terra Cotta. She has been active in many historic preservation efforts.

She was especially excited about the Detroit area, where ceramics are important to such structures as the Guardian Building and the Fox Theatre.

In New York, Tunick is involved in a project to bring back ceramic work in such public places as subways.

"You try for that person in the street, to give them what you can."

"You just chip away. You do what you can do."

GALLERY hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, or by appointment. Call 626-3111.

Posters show art with ads

By Mary Klemic staff writer

They are larger than life, those off-the-wall, colorful characters who make such ordinary actions as smoking, wearing silk stockings or bicycling seem dramatic, sophisticated or incredible fun.

They "live" within the borders of a poster, an advertising medium that became a special art form, featured in a display this month at Gallery IV, 6447 Inkster Road in Bloomfield Hills.

"Posters were 'Let's get it out and let's see it,'" said Bob Binder, Gallery IV director. "The message is quickly across to the person who passes by."

"The poster was done as an art form. It got wide expression very quickly. It's still very prevalent today in France. In Paris, there's a museum specially for posters."

THE POSTER started in 1865 with muralist Jules Cheret. It posed a special challenge: getting the message across instantly to passerby ("the poster must send a telegram," it was said).

So artists created strong images, using vibrant colors and intricate designs. As a result, posters were

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The artist Cappiello drew an elegant woman on a poster to draw attention to this product.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Harvest of gourds yields bounty of homemade items

This spring, I gave my grandson, Max, a package of Birdhouse Gourds from Northrup King Kidseeds. What a success story!

His parents wanted to provide shade for a new deck with a vine growing on a trellis. Mission accomplished!

The seeds were planted an inch deep, four inches apart in rich, light soil in full sun.

The vines really liked that spot. The vines quickly covered the trellis and crept over to the kitchen window (had to be trimmed) and up the roof (at least 30 feet) to Max's bedroom window. Shades of Jack and the Beanstalk.

The white blossoms opened toward evening adding a bright note; you could almost watch them open. Now there are many gourds, some

quite large, almost ready for picking.

AFTER THEY turn yellow, harvest will begin. If a three-inch stem is left on the gourd and formed into a hook, a natural handle will be attached.

After they have dried (indoors) and the shells are hard and the seeds rattle when the gourds are shaken, the fun begins.

To hasten drying, poke a few holes with a sharp, pointed instrument, such as an ice pick, in the bottom while the skin is still soft.

Holes can be cut in the gourd and the seeds removed to make birdhouses, clippers and other items. For outside use, weatherproof with varnish.

I have had one on a kitchen wall

down to earth
Marty Figley

for years with a little ceramic bird poking his head out. Painted, they can be turned into unusual creatures. (I bet Grandma and Grandpa will receive a special gift.)

FOR A bird feeder, break a hole in the gourd with a hammer and remove the shattered shell and the meat. Leave the seeds and dried fiber for the birds.

I remember lowering a bucket that was attached to a long rope

down into the large well at my grandmother's home in North Carolina and cranking it back up, then dipping a cup or gourd into the fresh cool water for a refreshing drink.

Gourds have been used as utensils for years and years as measure for grains and such.

The birdhouse gourds are a tender annual vine belonging to the Cucurbitaceae (cucumber family). The Latin name for this genus, *Lagenaria siceraria*, comes from the Latin, *lagen*, meaning bottle, which refers to the shape.

This genus grows in many shapes and sizes and is commonly called a calabash or white-flowered gourd.

MOST MEMBERS of the cucumber family are tender annuals. Some have a trailing habit, while

others, like Max's, adhere to a support by tendrils.

They need to be planted where they will remain in the garden because they don't like to be transplanted, although they can be started in small containers indoors in late February or March and set outside when all danger of frost has passed.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham.

GARDEN CALENDAR

● Cranbrook Gardens' 19th annual fall plant sale, "Gifts from the Garden — for the Gardener," promises to be bigger and better. All proceeds will benefit Cranbrook Gardens and Cranbrook Educational Community.

The sale will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at 380 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. A shuttle will be offered from parking at Christ Church.

Besides plants, wreaths, ornaments, aprons and the new Cranbrook cookbook are among the items to be available.

A series of demonstrations will be offered: "Fantasy Tree" at 1 p.m., "Planting Paperwhites" at 1:30 p.m., and "A New Type of Wreath" at 2 p.m., all Friday. The wreath and tree demonstrations will be repeated 11 a.m. Saturday.

● Matthei Botanical Gardens' autumn sale will take place 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26. Proceeds will support Matthei educational and environmental programs.