

Photographer's works shown on holiday cards

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

Dramatic nighttime photos by Joseph Messina, a photographer and instructor who has lectured in the area, including at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and Troy Public Library, have been chosen by the American Cancer Association for the fronts of two of its Christmas cards this year.

The cards feature Messina's color photos of the large Christmas tree on Hart Plaza in Detroit and a past Christmas display at Eastland Shopping Center in Harper Woods. The cards are available at area hospitals, including St. Joseph's in Pontiac. Proceeds benefit hospices.

Also, Messina's color photograph of the Fisher Building at night surrounded by Christmas lights is the December illustration for the AAA Michigan Living calendar for 1992. "I DO A lot of night photography," said Messina, who is based in St. Clair Shores.

"The night has magic to it. It sparkles and glitters."

"Most people go to Las Vegas to gamble. I went there to take pictures at night."

Messina has created several greeting cards in the past 15 years. Two recent Hallmark greeting cards feature his photos of stained glass windows.

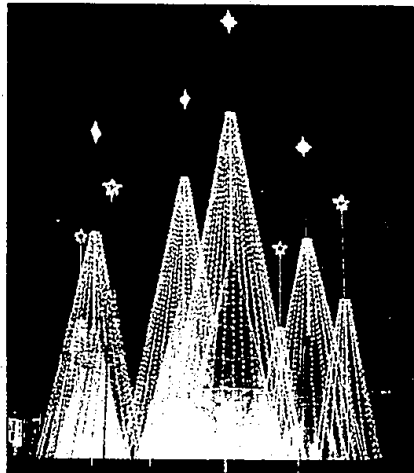
One of these, a Tiffany work of the resurrection, is in Christ Church in Detroit. The other, of Christ praying in the hamlet, is from a Catholic church in Hamtramck that is now closed.

HOLIDAYS ARE another special photo theme for Messina.

He is conducting a photography session Saturday, Dec. 14, at Greenfield Village. Participants will have the opportunity to photograph Christmas trim at the village. The cost is \$35. Call Messina at 773-5815 for information.

"Christmas is an exciting time. People love to get out and do Christmas trim."

Messina's past classes have taken holiday pictures in the Birmingham shopping area.



This photo by Joseph Messina of a nighttime Christmas display was one of those chosen by the American Cancer Association for the front of a Christmas card this year.

1st Thursday a hit for galleries' group

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

The cold weather didn't chill the spirit for the Dec. 5 First Thursday, the kickoff event of the new organization, The North Woodward Galleries.

Maybe visitors walked a little gingerly, with an eye out for ice as well as for the display windows, but the enthusiasm was almost as warming as the temporary espresso stand set up north of Maple.

Just as the falling snow didn't burst the clusters of white balloons that lined Woodward, the weather didn't burst the bubble of gallery representatives, who were pleased with the turnout.

"I think it's fantastic," said Corrine Lemberg, director of the Lemberg Gallery. "We're hoping to be able to do openings at the same time, make it all one night (instead of in different weeks)."

THE North Woodward Galleries will plan simultaneous openings, lectures and a series of special events

throughout the year. Those nights, the galleries will extend their hours to 8:30 p.m.

On Dec. 5, 14 galleries along Woodward, located from the Weiss Gallery at the 588 address to the Wetman Collection at 132, took part. Each gallery hosted a booth for a non-profit organization. These included Preservation Wayne/DAADS, the Detroit Artists Market, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Music Hall and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Caroleers delighted the visitors.

"I think the non-profit groups helped get people out," said Claudia Freer Brownlie, owner of Art for the Metropolis. "We'd like to do a 'theme' to help out some other (cause) every time."

"We had a number of people," said Melissa Lipton of the Wetman Collection. "It worked out pretty well." "We were really happy with it," said David Klein, director of O.K. Harris Works of Art. "A lot of people didn't know those galleries existed."

exhibitions

Send news items about Oakland County art gallery exhibitions to: The Eccentric, 803 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Send items about Wayne County exhibitions to: The Observer, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Attention: Creative Living editor.

● **INDUSTRY**
Thursday, Dec. 12 — The artistic "noise" of the Royal Oak design collective, Der Larm (German for "the noise"), arrives at 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Doors open at 7 p.m., wine-tasting and hors d'oeuvres 7-9 p.m. Call 334-1999. Inspired by the German expressionists, the trio (Bill Bowen, Thomas Thewes Jr. and David Miyai) strives to apply a fine-art attitude to the commercial art field, reminiscent of Neville Brody's

achievements. Progressive thought and propaganda are the key terms in describing the unified design of Der Larm, whose collective experience stems from the School of the Arts Institute in Chicago, the Center for Creative Studies and Wayne State University.

● **JANICE CHARACH**
EPSTEIN MUSEUM/GALLERY
Through Dec. 12 — "On, Of and About Paper" continues. The exhibition features the work of seven artists whose work involves the use of paper as a surface, as a medium and as a context to explore their creative ideas. The artists are Michael Freedman, Linda Golden, Joel Handorf, Jerry Heilbrunn, Aviva Robinson, Stanley Louis Rosenblatt and Karen Roth. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday, to 8 p.m. Thursday and to 4 p.m. Sunday, at the Jewish Community Center, Maple and Drake in West Bloomfield, 661-1000.

● **COUNTY GALLERIA**
To Dec. 13 — New work by artists Barbara Keldan, Margaret Kelleher, Sonia Molnar, Rita Skosen and Frances Waring is exhibited. The artists, who work together under the name "Six Directions" (one artist retired to warmer climes), have exhibited widely as a group and individually in Michigan. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday in the Executive Office Building in the County Service Center, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, 858-0415.

● **SISSON GALLERY**
Through Dec. 13 — "Women Printmakers," a collection of works from the Print Consortium, is on exhibit. Gallery hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, at MacKenzie Fine Arts Center, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn, 845-9834.

● **THE SCARAB CLUB**
To Dec. 21 — The club's 78th annual gold medal exhibition features its gold medal winner, "And Angels were in the City," by Arnold Drefuss of Detroit. Hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday at 217 Farnsworth, adjacent to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Free parking in the

Scarb lot. For details, call 831-1250 during gallery hours.

● **XOCHIPILLI GALLERY**
Saturday, Dec. 14 — Michigan artist Doug Warner will open an exhibit of his newest paintings, "Notations." Exhibit will run to Jan. 18. Reception to meet the artist 2-5 p.m. Saturday. During the past decade, Warner has explored rituals and lore expressed through universal symbols, including Navajo planetaria, aerial views of Stonehenge, the Bighorn Medicine Wheel and stellar charts. The works in the show are a series of paintings reflecting Warner's fascination with man's mysterious markings and the archetypes

that make up the collective consciousness of man. Each canvas is etched with markings, built up with rope attachments and glazed with rich, vibrant hues. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 568 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 645-1985.

● **BOOK BEAT**
Saturday, Dec. 14 — Exhibition and sale of male nude photography of the 1950s by Bruce of Los Angeles, a mentor to Robert Mapplethorpe and Bruce Weber opens with a reception 7-9 p.m. Dec. 14 at Book Beat, 26010 Greenfield, Oak Park. Exhibit runs through Jan. 31. Hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Sketches featured

An architect's sketches of Birmingham structures have built a calendar for 1992. The project is a first-time endeavor for Karen Swanson Austin, who works at the firm of Luckenbach-Zieglerman in Birmingham.

"It was kind of exciting to get back into sketching," Austin said. "I'm an architect, and I was talking with a co-worker about it. It just sort of evolved."

THE CALENDAR, which sells for \$10.95, is now available at Borders Book Store, the Birmingham Bookstore, Orthogonally and the Brown Street Market. Each month features a different scene — including the Birmingham Theatre (1927), Ida Bell House (1884), St. James Church (1895), Municipal Building (1928), Baldwin Library (1927) and Allen House

Austin grew up in the area. For the calendar, she tried to choose sites that were "typical of Birmingham" or held a special significance to many people. She worked from photographs.

Whether Austin will make another calendar depends on how well this one is received. "I'm going to see how this one goes. I'll see what kind of interest. It's just kind of a fun little side thing."

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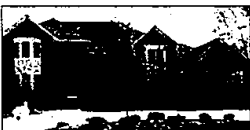
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