

Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



Mary Klemic editor/644-1100

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(O1D)

Art Beat

Arthbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 46009.

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

Distinguished poet Michael Delp will judge the eighth annual Poet Hunt, a competition hosted by Schoolcraft College and The MacGuffin literary magazine.

Michigan residents may submit one to five unpublished original poems of 50 lines or less. Entry fee is 50 cents per poem, typed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper. Include your name, address and daytime phone number on a separate 3-by-5-inch index card.

Mail entries to Poet Hunt, Liberal Arts Building, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia 48152. The entry deadline is Feb. 1.

Prizes include \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, \$25 for third place and three honorable mentions. The six finalists will be invited to read their poetry at 7 p.m. Monday, April 6, on campus.

Winning entries will be published in the fall issue of The MacGuffin. Delp, an instructor at Interlochen Academy, will announce the winners at his reading 8 p.m. Monday, March 16.

Call Art Lendberg in Schoolcraft's English department, 462-4400, Ext. 5292, for details.

Maechus Sly Fox Restaurant, 725 S. Hunter in Birmingham, will be the site of the fourth annual "Art from the Heart" auction for the Heart and Vascular Institute of the Henry Ford Hospital. The entire restaurant will be used exclusively for the event, taking place 7-10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3.

Highlights of the art this year will include work by Center for Creative Studies faculty and students, Cranbrook Academy of Art graduates, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association faculty and two artists recently chosen to exhibit and sell their art in the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian.

Maechus will again serve Heart Smart hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Jimmy Launce will again be the auctioneer.

Reservations are \$60 per person. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 27. Call 876-2727 for information.

Work of Oakland County residents will be in an exhibition running Thursday to Saturday in the central galleries on the third floor of Stackham Hall at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

The exhibition is a retrospective of the course, "The Architecture of Objects." It will feature works that show an interest in architectural design other than architecture, including furniture, lamps and containers. The show opens 7-9 p.m. today. Hours are 1-8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Farmington artist Susan Van Deventer-Warner is featured at the Atrium Gallery in Northville now through the end of February. She is exhibiting large and small contemporary acrylic paintings on canvas. Her work is multi-dimensional with a graphic feeling. The gallery is at 113 N. Center. Call 349-4131.



Lynn Galbreath used vibrant strokes to create a swirling mass of fish in "Live and Let Live (All Creatures Large and Small)," one of the works now shown at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery at Oakland University.

Realism seen in new light

By Mary Klemic staff writer

Feel snowed under by abstract art? Stranded in drifts of complex imagery? You can come in from the cold by visiting an exhibit that opened Sunday at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery at Oakland University.

The show, "Expressive Visions and Exquisite Images Part II: Michigan Artists," offers a statewide survey focusing on realism and expressionism, two trends of the art produced during the 1980s. The exhibit will run to March 15. It continues the theme of a Meadow Brook show last fall that artists in the last decade have shown a renewed interest in past styles and techniques while giving their images new meaning.

The current exhibit looks at Michigan artists, from a list made up of Michigan Council for the Arts grant recipients and recommenda-

Exhibitions, 4D

tions from the Detroit Focus Gallery.

"Basically I found Michigan artists reflect the national trend," said Kitchi Usui, curator. "Younger artists are getting away from abstraction and searching particularly for expressionism."

"(Works are) refined, storytelling but not strictly illustration. (They're) realism, yet trying to go beyond."

DETAILS IN some works are exquisite, making sensitive and delicate images. Sometimes the frame is part of the art. Jeffrey Abt's "Untitled" in tempera, acrylic and upsonite is a triptych. Folded up, the back of the work forms an intricate pattern. Unfolded, a scene is presented that

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A small figure seems to float inside a larger one in "La Nascita" by Dora Natalia.

Bloomfield Hills artist displays wide variety of life

By Jacqueline Powell staff writer

Bloomfield Hills artist Karen Halpern has three decades of her art work on exhibit in "Tribute to Life," at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward at Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills, through Feb. 14.

The viewer is taken from realism through abstraction, figure and portrait, natural forms and design themes. Varied media are featured including oil, acrylic and watercolor.

Three of the watercolors feature the amaryllis.

"I never had this flower before and had bought it at the grocery store," Halpern said. "It was amazing to watch it bloom again and again. The calla lily I had also bought and it was so grand."

"Seeing it as a single flower — the understatement — lends great impact. My other watercolors clearly show where I have gone behind, and in front of the art using geometric shapes."

VIEWING "Blue Room," there is an irresistible urge to reach out and touch the shoulder of the piano player. The feeling is that he will immediately turn to see who has interrupted his playing. The intensity is overpowering.

"This was my first oil painting. I was in college, probably 18 at the time. Some friends and I had gone to this bar. It was just a kick. The characters in this painting came out of that experience."

"The gesture of the body conveys a great deal. This is the way you can communicate through a painting, similar to sign language or putting together a good movie. Conveying an idea but certainly not a message."

"FIRST SON, Super Son" has a father holding his baby son aloft. There is such passion yet infinite tenderness.

"All the figures come from my head. In this painting the father's arms are holding the baby way up in the air. It is that thrust I went after. "Everything I do comes from within me and involves situations in life or relationships with people."

"My involvement in modern dance, which I not only studied but choreographed, is where I am coming from in portraying the human figure."

"The body in its stance, gesture and physical condition becomes the powerful medium through which the subject is portrayed. My knowledge of the way the body can move to create a statement in dance helps me to create a mood, to fashion an emotion, to convey an idea in my art."



JOHN STORMZANO/staff photographer

Karen Halpern of Bloomfield Hills stands by one of her paintings on display at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Halpern's show, "Tribute to Life," features three decades of the artist's work, and takes the viewer through both realism and abstraction.

HALPERN WAS an instructor of art at Indiana State University. She is presently an instructor of drawing and painting classes at The Community House in Birmingham, and continuing education classes in art in West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills

and Farmington Hills. Halpern does portraits on commission.

"I have always been interested in people. Portraits give me another outlook to utilize. I am continually looking for a variety of opportunities

to do my art.

"Throughout my life I have moved a great deal. This, of course, interrupted any continuity in my career. I am now able to put the effort into

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Wildflower fan conducts tour through past, present

When I opened "The Wild Gardeners," Peter Loewer (Stackpole Books, \$19.95), I knew at once I had met a fellow wildflower enthusiast, because in the introduction he mentions an old book, first published in 1895 — I also own a copy.

Loewer takes us along on his ventures in his garden and woods, explaining characteristics, growth habits, historical lore and facts about native wildflowers. His narrative is charming and colorful.

We learn how birds have brought fish to his pond (or is he joking?), that a sweet smelling water lily,

Nymphaea odorata, is perfect to put in the pond.

There is much information from this prolific author who hasn't forgotten slugs, butterflies and other creatures on his journey through the seasons. Delightful.

"THE LANGUAGE of Flowers, A Book of Victorian Floral Sentiments," Kathleen M. Gips (Pine Creek Herbs, 122 S. Main, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022, \$10.95, paper), brings focus to the ways people in the 18th and 19th centuries used flowers to communicate feelings. This book is interesting not only



Gardeners' book nook

Marty Figley

for the historical value, but for the thorough research that Gips did to explain the meaning of herbs, flowers, shrubs and trees, then and now.

"A Celebration of Old Roses," Trevor Griffiths (Michael Joseph, \$24.95), describes and details all

classes of these flowers — damasks, albas, noisettes, musks and many others.

After traveling across three continents, Griffiths suggests gardens to visit and explains that all roses are not classified or named the same throughout the world. I will try one in the garden by training a shrub rose on a pole. The bulk of the book is devoted to gorgeous photographs and descriptions of old roses.

"Down-to-earth Gardening Knowledge for the '90s," Dick Raymond (Storey Publishing, \$24.95, paper), teaches how to plan and care for a

backyard garden in a small space, recommends wide rows and discusses composting, cover crops, early planting, mulches, etc. He also deals with storing the produce in a root cellar.

The practical advice will set you on the right course. Storey Publishing books can be ordered by calling 1-800-827-8673.

TWO PAPERBACKS for the traveler are part of a new series, "The Complete Guide to North American Gardens," William C. Mulligan (Little, Brown, \$15.95 each). Volume I focuses on the Northeast

states and eastern Canada, while Volume II describes gardens on the west coast of North America and includes Hawaii.

The written word and color photos will entice travelers to beautiful gardens, some well-known and others not so familiar. These are superb garden travel guides.

When I studied the directions and text of "Painting Plant Portraits, A Step-by-Step Guide," Keith West (Timber Press, \$22.95), it made me appreciate so much more the diligence and techniques of artists.

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