

Amaryllis art blooms with watercolors

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watercolor class and gives demonstration in innovative watercolor techniques. But to be considered art, the work needs to speak to the viewer.

"A lot of artists never get beyond technique. They're wonderful technicians but they don't have anything to say," Joppich said.

Livonia artist Barbara Stewart frames an amaryllis plant with an intricate graphic pattern contrasting the flower's petals and leaves of large, relatively simple shapes. An inner frame consisting of white doves in flight swoop around the edge of a black background, which brings the plant to the foreground, popping it out.

Livonia artist Laura Trantham gives her watercolor an Oriental look by using

a graphic red and olive green border that provides contrast to the lyrical shapes of the olive and brown background. Bonsai trees and sword-shaped foliage further the Oriental theme.

JOPPICH HOLDS a bachelor of fine arts degree from Marygrove College in Detroit and did graduate studies at Wayne State University. She has 21 one-person exhibits to her credit.

Her paintings have been accepted into more than 100 juried exhibits. She has won 40 awards, including 22 best of show and first-place ribbons. Invitational exhibits include 30 major museums, art centers and galleries throughout Michigan.

Previously, Joppich taught at the University of Detroit and Marygrove College. She is co-owner, director and cur-

tor of the annual invitational exhibit of works by 50 Michigan artists since 1980 at Joppich's Bay Street Gallery in Northport.

"I think it's good for the public to see it's not the same amaryllis, each is different. This exhibit illuminates the splendor of life as seen through the eyes of the artist," Joppich said. "What was the artist trying to say? Each has something to communicate."

The library exhibit is sponsored by the Farmington Artists Club.

For information on VAAL classes taught by faculty members Joppich, Donna Vogelheim, Lily Dudgeon, Audrey DiMareo, Marge Chellstorp, Monica Leaning, Ann Dase and Jer-Trae Halburp, call Marge Musick at 464-6772.

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VAAL instructor Edee Joppich (left) and VAAL president Eileen Bibby display amaryllis paintings by Shirley Bishop, Irene Kallas and Bibby. Other VAAL

artists, Bev Johnston, Cindy Pierson, Evanthis Somara and Betty Love, pointed the watercolors in the background.

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