

# Baskets

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Crombie uses the shiny interior and rough exterior of bark stripings in a contrast of texture both visually and tactfully appealing.

"It's traditional work. I use basic handle wrapping techniques after nating surfaces of smooth and rough bark."

"The thing about bark, there's endless opportunities. You can create form and structure from that bark or it can be pliable depending on where you get the bark on the tree," Crombie said.

"I'm surrounded by art all day. I'm stimulated to go home and create something you can pick up and touch."

## Gathering interest

The decorative crafts movement including weavers, glass artists and ceramicists continues to attract admirers and collectors of fine art.

"Respect for basketry as a decorative art is growing. The community is finally showing an interest in baskets," Selk said.

"For example, John McQueen is trained as a sculptor, but chooses to be called a basket maker."

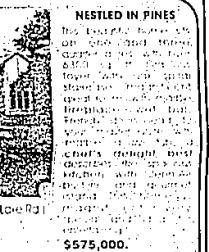
Spotlighted at the Invitational, McQueen's "Envolage," a sculpture of basket crafted of tulip poplar and waxed string looks like a reconstructed tree trunk, felled and patched together again with bark.

## Papermaking workshop set

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts offers a non-session papermaking workshop for adults 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3.

Participants will explore the cre-

ative possibilities of handmade paper. Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 27. For more information, call the PCCA at 651-4110.



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TERRY ZOLYNSKY/SUZI PHOTOGRAPHY

**All that jazz:** Moe Brooker's paintings show the urban energy of jazz. Like a jazz composer plays with a tune, Brooker plays with such motifs as lines, bright colors and striped bars to create visual harmonies. The works are now on display at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham.

# Art

from page 1D

Brooker's titles — "The Heart of Something Unanimous," "It's Coming to a Beginning," "With the Speed of Instinct," for example — sound like snatches of poems or poems. Some of them really do come from poems.

"Often the sense of words is exciting to me."

"I approach painting in the same way that one does language. We learn language by first learning sounds and then you learn the alphabet and simple words."

Brooker, a Philadelphia native, was trained as a painter at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

"Discipline, I rely on that. The paintings take maybe five or six months... It looks immediate but it isn't."

A jazz composer may play with a melody. In the same way, Brooker may play with a shape, taking a stamp as a motif, for example, and reproducing it in different ways around the work.

"I always want to change it or rearrange it. I am able to convert it to my own use."

"Good energy begets good ener-

gy." Brooker is always exploring means and media. He has changed, from his student days, when he thought pastel was "wimpy material," and is now looking beyond the flat surface.

"Painting is so formal. I have to get beyond that. I want to be able to convert the painting. I feel much

more in control of pastel and watercolor."

"I've been slowly moving toward colorful pieces that no longer figure behind frames, like breaking out."

Michaels, a Detroit area artist, is known for his sculpture. One piece at the gallery shows how he runs a continuing theme through his work, including his drawings that are also on display.

In the sculpture, the viewer's eye follows a line that becomes a crevice; for example, stones show a vein design that is found elsewhere in the work.

Michaels, a former pianist, carries a musician's discipline, he said.

"The drawing is done within one sitting, sometimes," he said.

Some of the drawings are the artist's musings; some are studies for sculpture. One entries an undetermined theme — a prow of a boat can be seen, along with sea vessels and creatures in a gentle, flowing arrangement. Another shows a series of musical instruments.

Another drawing grew out of the wrinkled paper it is on. The natural shadows of the paper are reproduced in shading of the drawing, making an almost optical illusion.

"A lot of creativity is stopped by minimizing too quickly."

Michaels is aware that art can come "naturally," from unplanned doodling.

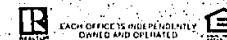
"I've always encouraged artists to have that paper handy."

**Hours are: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
**Tuesday-Saturday. Call 642-3909.**

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