

CREATIVE LIVING

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MARY KLEMIC

Artist starts academy for youngsters, adults

A Southfield artist wants to draw others into the world of art.

Curtis Lewis, whose mural of the Detroit Pistons was seen at the Palace of Auburn Hills, and whose mural of Malcolm X is in the Museum of African American history, has started an academy between Eight and Nine Mile for ages 9 and up.

The Curtis Lewis Academy of the Arts, on the second floor at 21830 Greenfield, will have an open house from 7-11 p.m. Saturday, June 27. A dinner will take place 7-11 p.m. For more information, call Lewis at 559-3834 or 559-1506.

Variety offered

The academy will offer a variety of arts, including art history, graphic design, photography, sculpture and ceramics. Plans are for its staff to include Lewis and about three other artists, along with people who work in such fields as architectural drawing, lettering and calligraphy and such positions as contractors and automotive designers.

"I'm now at the point where I want to give something back," said Lewis, 40.

"The first 40 years were for me. Now the next (40) I want to give something back."

Lewis hopes to teach the basics of art to 400 to 500 students this summer. Tuition is \$50 for eight weeks. The enrollment fee is \$25.

Lewis graduated from Pershing High School in Detroit and won a scholarship to the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. He started a publishing company about eight years ago, and made the Captain Detroit character for Mich Con.

Positive option

The academy will make positive activity available.

"I felt that particularly after watching the riots in Los Angeles I felt there is a great need to give the young people something to do with their time... people an outlet to express themselves."

But art classes are more than just something to keep people occupied. Lewis wants to show something of the business of art, to "dispel the myth about the starving artist," he said.

"If they get an opportunity to find out there is a future in art," it might spur students to enter that field, he said.

The academy is for adults as well as youths.

"Parents have been calling to enroll with their children."

Lewis' mural of the Detroit Pistons will hang at the academy.

Decent duties

A recent column should have said each decent at the Detroit Institute of Arts gives a minimum 20 tours a year.

Many DIA deacons give more tours. Two gave more than 50 this year, and one gave more than 70.

Invitational

The wide world of art is on display at the Mid America Invitational, running to July 31 at The Artists' Gallery, in Applegate Square on Northwestern Highway between 12 and 13 Mile in Southfield.

Michigan artists are featured, with works in all media, realism and abstract. Sculpture, glass, paintings, photography can be seen.

The gallery started 1 1/2 years ago as a way for area artists to show their work and get to know one another. They arrange the different exhibits in the gallery. The shows change every few weeks throughout the year.

Art fair

Meadow Brook Art Gallery's first art fair and sale, this weekend on the grounds at Oakland University, promises fun for all.

The fair will feature an exhibition of ceramics, glass, jewelry, painting and sculpture by more than 80 juried artists from around the state and country. Visitors can picnic adjacent to Meadow Brook Hall. Youngsters will have an activity area.

Money raised by the fair will benefit the gallery, which has been the site of exhibitions from around the country.

Admission is free. Parking is \$2. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The fair will take place on the east side of OU's campus, on the south side of the Meadow Brook Music Festival grounds, in Rochester.



HILLHENSEN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In home art choices: West Bloomfield resident Andrea Switch points to the red color that will accent the family's black-and-white dining room, in a print brought to her by Linda Hayman (left) and art consultants Jai Leo and Michelle Montone of the Linda Hayman Gallery.

Art gallery makes house calls



BY LINDA ANN CHROMIS
STAFF WRITER

Linda Hayman Gallery in Farmington Hills has a better idea when it comes to making those difficult choices in art buying — Hayman brings the art to you.

Hayman, and art consultants Michelle Montone and Jai Leo, visit clients' homes and offices to help them visualize how style, color, content and an art work's size will fit in with their decor and lifestyle.

On a recent Tuesday morning, Hayman, Montone and Leo brought nearly a dozen unframed prints to the West Bloomfield home of Drs. Jerry and Andrea Switch.

A year ago last Christmas, an electrical fire burned the Switches' home to the ground, destroying all of their valuables, one week before they were set to move into a new home.

"Everything was destroyed. We had no art work, no baby pictures," Andrea Switch said.

"They came out on several occasions and brought art and posters. This enabled me to visualize it."

Switch had originally sought the gallery's help in framing her children's photographs after retrieving as many as she could from the files of local photographers. Luckily, some studios keep negatives as long as 16 years.

After framing the photos, the Switches needed art and posters to cover their bare walls.

"I have a hard time visualizing. I need guidance even though I know exactly what I want," Switch said.

Andrea had carpet samples, but she was at a loss as to what would work in their home. That's why we all have art backgrounds. We can visualize. We're really here to advise," Montone said.

Time the Switches spend on decision making is limited because of their hectic schedules. Jerry is an ophthalmologist, Andrea, a veterinarian. In the course of the house calls, several pieces were left for approval by the gallery, enabling Jerry and Andrea to participate together in the selection process.

"Cafe de Paris," a brightly colored serigraph by Israeli artist Itzhak Tarkay, greets visitors to the Switches' formal dining room, decorated in black and white.

"We've done everything all contemporary," Switch said. "We knew we liked the artist. We wanted something to feel warm, to have a person at a table to make the room comfortable when

See GALLERY, 6D

Different perspective: Leonard Shlain, whose parents lived in Southfield, has written a book saying that developments in art laid the groundwork for discoveries in science. Shlain visited area bookstores recently to discuss his ideas.



JERRY ZEISS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Book gives science, art new perspective

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

"Art is the Queen of all sciences communicating knowledge to all the generations of the world," Leonardo da Vinci wrote.

San Francisco surgeon Leonard Shlain, who grew up in Detroit and whose parents lived in Southfield, has found a glorious coincidence in the relationship of art and science.

In his book, "Art and Physics: Parallel Visions in Space, Time and Light," Shlain presents the colorful theory that discoveries in science had their forerunners in art, music and literature. Revolutionary artists and visionary physicists organize perceptions in surprisingly similar ways.

"I think art and physics are two complementary descriptions of the world," Shlain said last week between making

slide presentations at Bookpeople in West Bloomfield and Borders Book Store in Birmingham.

"I'm saying... that the true artist is the visionary."

"The artist is the first to see in image and metaphor. The revolutionary physicist works along and thinks about the world in a new way, in a tight language of numbers and equations. They are talking about the same thing."

Viewpoints

For example, the 19th century artists Manet, Monet and Cezanne painted works that changed perspective and the straight line, showing new ways to look at space. These ideas were confirmed by Einstein's theory of relativity, published several years later.

See AUTHOR, 6D

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

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

CLARIFICATION

The June 11 story listing the award winners in "Celebrate Life 1992," the 12th annual juried art show of the Congregational Church of Birmingham, should have said Gena Tiso of Bloomfield Hills won a Merit Award for "Untitled," a collage.

OPEN HOUSE

Plum Tree Pottery, 30435 W. 10 Mile in Farmington Hills, has set its spring sale and studio open house 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 20. It's an opportunity to see what is being made and to observe the inner workings of one of Michigan's oldest working potteries. Visitors may also become acquainted with two new gallery spaces: the Upper Gallery, featuring John Glick's best quality pieces, and the Landscape Lounge, where his wall pieces are made. Park east of the pottery in the small factory lot and stroll across the field to the sale. Call 476-4875 for information.

Art Beat

ARTIST HONORED

Birmingham resident Gail Eisner has been honored by the prestigious National Association of Women Artists. Her work was selected to receive the Sara Winston Memorial Award at the association's annual exhibition, which took place recently in the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building in New York City.

The work, "Bottle Study No. 3," is an oil painting on treated paper intentionally folded to create a bas relief, three-dimensional effect, which appears to move the picture out of the flat picture plane.

Eisner currently works in her Royal Oak studio. Her art may be seen at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, the University Art Gallery of Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, and the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, Ind.

OAKLAND WINNERS

Oakland County artists are among the award winners in the Palette and Brush Club's spring show, which continues through Saturday, June 20, at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Gwen Tomkow of Farmington Hills won third prize. Honorable mentions went to Marilyn Blinder of Southfield, Ruth Neuman of Birmingham and Dadi Sikevitz of West Bloomfield. Mary Koss of Southfield, Sue Wilson of Rochester, Elise Pedersen of Birmingham and Barbara Dennison of West Bloomfield won Juror's Special Mentions. Well-known artist and teacher Mary Aro juried the exhibit.

CRANBROOK REUNION

Last weekend was alumni weekend at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills. More than 80 alumni attended, some from as far away as Japan and Finland. Among the featured events Saturday and Sunday were a welcome by president Roy Slade, a barbecue dinner, films and museum previews for two exhibitions, "Glorious Finale: The Arts and Crafts Movement at Cranbrook 1927-1932" and "Beauty and Home: Wallpapers and Textiles by William Morris."