

CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1992



MARY KLEMIC

Painter digs into art; OU remembers Papa

Sam Gilliam is a sculptor almost as much as he is a painter. His art, exhibited at the Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend in Birmingham through Oct. 10, is a vibrant variety of works on paper, in luscious colors and versatile textures.

Colorful collage

The show features three different types of Gilliam's work. One type of painting uses a collage technique. Sliced sections of painted canvas are stitched together and painted with dynamic shades of acrylic and polypropylene.

The result is a harmony of strong colors and delicate textures and stitching, of peaks and valleys. Raised painted surfaces form ridges. Neat, narrow swatches are cut into these ridges, revealing layers of different colors and creating a pattern that repeats itself in the work. There's no chaos here. The neatness gives the viewer time to savor the many facets of the work.

Cutting it out

Another type of work combines cutout wooden shapes and painted, collaged paper. The wooden curves may frame and accent the piece. Sometimes the accent matches the cutout section from another part of the work. Some of the cutouts resemble hands, fitting because it's a "hands-on" piece. In a way, you can sense how the artist handled his work, "getting into it" literally as well as figuratively.

The third type of work consists of giant, round, three-dimensional pieces named after June, July and August. They hold the brightness and warmth that summer usually does. Among the features are fans and parasols, reds and yellows, tubes and folded strips.

Importance of Ernest

Ernest Hemingway's connection to Michigan goes beyond the Nick Adams stories, as a small but rich display at the Kresge Library at Oakland University in Rochester will explain.

Some of the items in the exhibit were donated by Roberta Schwartz, who teaches in the OU Journalism department. Others came from the library.

The display features a large lithograph by Carol Sedowski of Hemingway and shipmate Gregorio Fuentes. The two men are shown closeup in the front of the lithograph and in the background at the author's boat, "Pilar," pulling a man-size fish out of the sea.

Also included in the display is a copy of "Torrents of Spring," Hemingway's first published novel, which was set in Potoskey.

Michigan author

Hemingway was born in Illinois but grew up in Michigan and spent his summers in northern Michigan from ages 1-21. The family cottage was on Walloon Lake in Charlevoix County. Hemingway's first marriage took place in the town of Hortons Bay, Mich.

"He never forgot Michigan. He always loved it," Schwartz said.

Hemingway wrote the Nick Adams stories from Paris but set many of them in Michigan.

Family ties

Hemingway's sister, Sunny, lives in the family's Michigan cottage and his son, Jack, regularly returns to the state to fish, Schwartz said. The author kept in touch with his Michigan friends.

Schwartz had written many stories about Hemingway. She was doing research in Key West when she thought an exhibit on him would be something people would enjoy.

Hemingway wrote about the annual running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, in "The Sun Also Rises." A large statue of the author is in Pamplona today. But a statue or marker designating Hemingway's connection can't be found in Michigan, Schwartz said. Maybe the OU exhibit will change that.

Art walk

The weather provided a perfect scene Sunday for ArtAthon, a walk to sculptures loaned by area artists for City Scapes, a Birmingham art in public places project. Money raised from registration and pledges will go to the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association expansion. Refreshments and a dedication ceremony were at the BBAA after the walk.



JERRY ZOLVENSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artistic touch: Judith Dresner of Southfield, a former artist, loves art and loves making people welcome. So she opened her own gallery, which offers affordable pieces in a variety of media by unknown artists.

Gallery owner displays warmth



A Southfield resident has turned her love of art into running a gallery. Her gallery's focus is on offering affordable art by unknown artists in a variety of media. The owner, Judith Dresner, a former artist herself, wants visitors to feel at home in the gallery.

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Judith Dresner loves art. Judith Dresner loves people. So Judith Dresner opened an art gallery.

As simple as that? You'd believe it after meeting the Southfield resident. Her gallery, the Judith Dresner Gallery in Suite 123 of the Claymoor Building at 29260 Franklin Road in Southfield, opened in June.

"It was something I always wanted to do," said Dresner, who will be 77 in November. "I didn't want to sit around.

"I love art and I didn't want to work for anybody else."

Dresner is a former artist. One of her paintings adorns the gallery business cards. Her joys include helping unknown artists and welcoming visitors to the gallery.

"I'm a people person."

Painted silk, pottery, raku, weaving, watercolors, oils, glass sculpture, photography, mixed media works and etchings and other original art, modestly priced, fill the gallery. Unusual dolls with handmade costumes are among

the works that "no one else has," according to Dresner.

"I'm interested in all these young, beautiful people."

All the art is juried. The artists are award winners.

"I'm a very good critic. It has to be done by the individual. I love creative people that aren't afraid to show how they feel in their work."

She will notify artists right away when any of their works is sold.

"I love to get their reaction."

Dresner relishes working in the gallery ("I can't wait to get down here"), and doesn't want visitors to feel intimidated. Even if someone doesn't buy anything on one visit, Dresner wants him or her to feel comfortable about coming back, with the idea "I think I'll go over to Judy's," she said.

"Come on in . . . Ask me questions.

"I don't make anyone feel not at home. I don't believe in it. Life is too short for that."

"I'm very willing to tell them anything they want to know."

A woman bought all the gifts for her wedding party from the gallery, Dresner said.

Dresner's plan is for visitors to see a variety when they walk in.

"I'm going to make this place so full of beautiful things."

"It doesn't matter what medium. I want something for everybody."

She wants to always have something new.

"I'll put it on the ceiling (if necessary)."

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and Mondays by appointment.

Labor of love: Craig and Renee Harries have lovingly filled their 1949 ranch-style house with vintage furnishings for the 1930s to the 1950s. At right: An original art deco print from 1930 and a marble clock from the '40s accents the living room.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vintage furniture works with modern

BY JANICE TIGAR-KRAMER
BIVICAL WRITER

For Craig and Renee Harries of Bloomfield Township, furnishing their 1949 ranch-style house with vintage furniture from 1930 to 1950 is a shared pastime.

Marlon and Jerry Steks of Livonia have furnished their house from the same era and even built a game room with a restored jukebox, a '40s phone booth and '50s Pepsi clock.

A jukebox rocks the home of John and Carol Anderson of Plymouth, who've turned a basement room into a '50s diner.

Why the renewed interest in vintage, or retro, furnishings from the '30s to the '50s? Simple: furniture from a modern movement that began about 50 years ago stirs warm feelings of a kinder, gentler time, says Lawrence Storm, manager of Game Room Gallery, a showroom at the Troy-based Michigan Design

Home furnishings supplement included today

Center that sells restored Pepsi memorabilia from the '50s.

But don't underestimate the value of retro-furniture, "which can only go up in value," says Storm.

Craig Harries, 30, likes the way the old pieces easily blend with new modern. Renee Harries, 30, loves living with a look she has admired for years in the movies.

Wood floors, off-white walls and an open floor plan are a perfect background for the couple's high-end art deco and '50s pieces they've found at auctions and resale stores in Plymouth, Royal Oak and Detroit.

The living/dining room is sparsely furnished with a pair of '30s bar chairs

See FIFTIES, 4D

Artbeat 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.

MASTERPIECE

"Medieval Tapestry," a major work of art by Michigan artist Glen Michaels, will be unveiled at a dedication ceremony 2 p.m. Sunday at the Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill in Birmingham.

Art Beat

ham. The public may attend. Refreshments will be served.

The funding for the work, a 14-by-5-foot mural, is made possible through an anonymous donor whose identity will be revealed at the dedication. For more information, call the library at 647-1700.

ROYALE APPEARANCE

Max Duncan, creator of Duncan Royale porcelain

figurines, will visit Heslop's at Oakland Mall in Troy 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday. He will meet with collectors, sign pieces, display a video about Duncan Royale and introduce a special musical figurine featuring the Naas Santa, which is only available through the collectors society. For more information, call Heslop's at 589-1433.

ON BOARD

Ginny Chamberlin of Birmingham and Darryl Stawinski of Rochester have been elected to two-year terms on the board of directors of the Rochester Arts Commission/Paint Creek Center for the Arts.