



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Light touch: Lynn Shaler balances light and dark in her color etchings. Her work she is holding shows a dark room opening onto a sunny path. The artist, formerly of Birmingham, now lives and works in Paris, which she finds full of inspiration.

Shaler from page 1D

"La Chaise Rouge" features a chair in an elegant room. Tall windows look out to a tree and neatly trimmed bushes. "Le Qui d'Anjon" shows softly glowing lampshades and tall, totemlike trees. The person leaning on a wall isn't seen at first sight. "Tete a Tete" is a miniature showing feet under a table, with a woman's foot out of her shoe.

Such details as patterns on the floor or carpet, or suggestions of rough stone in buildings or streets, give a work individuality. Sometimes Shaler will add something to the etching, that wasn't in the actual scene, such as a cat going down steps.

Shaler's favorite period is 1800 to 1920. Art nouveau has often inspired her.

"I often am more inspired by

the winter than in the summer. I like using trees that have no leaves because you can see the buildings better."

World of experience

The artist completed her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan, and her graduate work at Pratt Institute of Brooklyn. She originally went to Paris on a Fulbright scholarship.

Shaler's work has been exhibited in the United States and abroad, including in France, England and Taiwan. Her etchings are in public and private collections around the world, among them the Victoria and Albert Museum of London, the Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris, the Library of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Brooklyn Museum.

Hooked from page 1D

can be the fifth wall."

How do you select an area rug? For starters, McQueen says consider the colors already in the room. Try to get an idea of what you'd like to see in the room, and begin looking. Occasionally, a customer will "fall in love" with a floor covering and design a rug to fit it, but most customers start with a major piece of furniture, like a sofa, before shopping for a rug, McQueen said.

"What's exciting about area rugs today is that they're not

trendy modern styles — they're classic contemporary and transitional designs that easily mix with other materials, it's that's what you want," McQueen said.

Reason for the staying power behind these contemporary styles is the impressive line-up of artists and manufacturers who are doing design time.

McQueen is the exclusive Michigan dealer for rugs by Mission, a collection of Italian apparel designer, Missoni-designed rugs, with generous borders around

Michaels from page 1D

he liked the shapes, mood and atmosphere of the scene.

The irregular shape between figures is important to Michaels. He likes to suggest depth by playing colors against each other, rather than by drawing lines. He added four or five different layers of paint until the grass in one work was the color he wanted.

Michaels works from smaller models of a scene that focus on one image in the larger scene. An image in one painting may be echoed in another.

For example, Michaels added figures to a park scene. The pigeons off to the side were actually outside his window when he painted them. The young woman gesturing appeared in a previous painting, and may appear in another work.

"I don't like titling things. I like it to have a feeling (that) time's almost stopped."

Another work features two young women, one lying on a bed and the other sitting in a chair next to her. The face of the latter is turned away from the viewer, making him or her wonder what's going on.

Many times Michaels himself can be spotted in a scene. His face may be reflected in a mirror on a back wall, or his shadow may fall on the floor next to the central figure.

This idea of an observer "draws you in," Michaels said. "I like the observer idea."

Sometimes Michaels will set up problems for himself, such as the arrangement of a coke can and a vase of flowers. But figure painting is of special importance to him.

"Even my still lifes have little figurines."

"I like where people congregate."

Michaels has been attracted to painting ever since childhood. After he graduated from the University of Michigan in 1988, he continued his studies for eight months at the Vermont Studio Center. He worked as a carpenter/builder there. Today he makes and paints his own frames, using colors that complement those in the art.

Michaels likes working in oil or encaustic, wax chunks of color



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Setting the scene: John Ross Michaels treats his canvas like a stage set, arranging figures and objects he painted from real life to his satisfaction. His colorful art will be shown at the Rubiner Gallery in West Bloomfield starting this weekend.

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EXHIBITIONS

Send calendar items about Oakland County art gallery exhibitions to The Observer, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Send items about Wayne County exhibitions to The Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Attention: Creative Living editor.

PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Friday, Oct. 9 — Collaborative works by Marilyn Zimmerman and Peter Lenz will be on display in the Main Gallery to Nov. 6. A mixed media show by Cherna Bednarsch will be featured in Artspace. Opening reception for both shows 7-9 p.m. Friday. Collages by Brenda Lawrence are concurrently exhibited in the RCCA Installation Corner. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 407 Pine, Rochester, 651-4110.

GALLERY BIRMINGHAM

RUBINER GALLERY

Friday, Oct. 9 — Paintings by John Ross Michaels will be shown through Nov. 4 in his first one-person exhibition in the state. Opening reception for the artist 6:30-9 p.m. Friday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 7001 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 430A, West Bloomfield, 626-3111.

ARNOLD KLEIN GALLERY

Friday, Oct. 9 — Color etchings by Lynn Shaler will be exhibited to Nov. 21. The artist will be present at a special opening 6-9 p.m. Friday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30

p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 4520 N. Woodward, Royal Oak, 647-7709.

HABATAT/SHAW GALLERY

Saturday, Oct. 10 — Works by George Timock and Michaela Di-cosola will be exhibited through Oct. 31. Opening reception 8 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday or by appointment, 32255 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, 851-8767.

Art, architecture tour on tap

Troy's bountiful crop of art and architecture in the golden fields of Coolidge and Big Beaver will be harvested at a special "Fall for the Arts" art and architecture tour 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Advance tickets are required. For more information, call 689-0600 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The \$5 per family, rain-or-shine tour spotlights Standard Federal Bank, 2600 W. Big Beaver, where guided tours will be conducted of its dramatic interior and highlights of its contemporary art

THE ART CENTER

Thursday, Oct. 8 — A comprehensive review of recent drawing, sculpture and mixed media works by Jodo Macey, a 1981 graduate of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, will be exhibited through Nov. 4. Opening reception for the artist 7-9 p.m. Thursday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, 469-8666.

Estate auction, preview slated

Matsel's Galleries Inc., 815 Woodward in Pontiac, will conduct an estate auction Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 10-11. Each session will begin at 1 p.m. at the gallery, one mile north of Square Lake Road. Viewing will take place noon to 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Oct. 8-9, and one hour before each session. Call 338-9040 for more information.

Quilter plans talk, workshop

Linda Fowler, nationally recognized quilt artist, will present a slide lecture to the Needlework and Textile Guild of Michigan at a meeting 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the First Methodist Church of Birmingham.

Guests may attend. The fee is \$5. Fowler will present a workshop the afternoon of Oct. 13 and all day Wednesday, Oct. 14. For more information about the meeting or

workshop, call 642-3842 or 689-4478.

Fowler's work appears in many national and international shows, including Visions 1990, Tactile Architecture 1992 and the Art of the Quilt. Her work is architectural in origin, with an ethereal quality. She uses brilliant colors that uplift and inspire. Fowler's slide presentation will focus on her sources of inspiration and the processes by which she transforms ideas into fabric art.

Ballet sets open house Oct. 11

The Michigan Classic Ballet Company will have an open house 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at the Geiger Classic Ballet Academy, 5526 Drake at Walnut Lake in West Bloomfield.

The company is forming a ballet guild, and is encouraging anyone interested in ballet to come to the open house and learn more about the guild and its activities.

Information about classes for children, teens and adults will be available. Highlights of the company's previous performances will be shown on videotape and co-

times will be modeled by company members. Refreshments will be served.

Each December, the company performs "The Nutcracker." Last year, several thousand people attended Michigan Classic Ballet performances at Puerst Auditorium in Novi.

Other ballets the company has performed include "Giselle" and "Coppelia." In March, it plans to perform the "Seasons of Spring" concert, which includes both classic and contemporary ballets.

Carpet from page 1D

Other inlaid patterns have Egyptian or Navajo tones. The Karavan line includes reversible handwoven rugs made of Egyptian wool. Rugs in the Finarte line, designed in Finland and handwoven in Portugal, are colorfully colored. Tufenkin designs look like marble.

"These days, rugs are much popular because of the diversity and availability of many new colors and designs," said Horne Azar, co-owner of Azar's Oriental Rugs, Birmingham. "There are more abstract designs, less traditional, more jewel-tone colors."

Geometric designs, pastels and such colors as yellow, teal, mauve, seafoam green, deep blue, green and black, as well as traditional patterns and motifs are featured among the look of contemporary rugs.

Ground rules

Rugs may hang on the wall — by strips or over rods — or lie on the floor. They come from Tibet and Portugal as well as other countries traditionally associated with rugs.

Plenty of information is avail-

able to help educate the buyer about rugs. Besides rug dealers, newspapers and magazines are good places to get decorating ideas.

"What they should do is look around, get a feel for what they like," said Karen Nigoshian, one of the owners of Nigoshian's Oriental Rugs in Birmingham. "There are a lot of settings in current magazines and every magazine you pick up."

Terry Tennant, owner of Tennant and Associates at the Michigan Design Center, Troy, has popular designs from 1900 to 1930 in the Pelazzetti line, made by designers, painters and sculptors. "It's a very, very well accepted," he said.

The heavy, thick wool rugs are sometimes hung as art. A computer can increase the size of the rug by programming the pattern or making a mirror image of it.

The abstract, geometric designs include "Papua," by painter and sculptor R. Pinheiro of Brazil.

In this 1932 design, black, yellow, blue, green, soft pink and deep red shapes are arranged around an off-white rectangle in

the center. The rug, all hand-made, is 100 percent wool and about three-quarters of an inch thick.

A 1921 design by Eileen Gray features dark, simple geometric shapes on an aqua background.

Versatile variety

Rugs are flexible, versatile with any decor in any room.

"Rugs go with both traditional and contemporary furniture and setting," Azar said. "There are no limitations. They go with antiques, glass and chrome."

Some black-and-white art deco designs look good with black leather furniture, Tennant said.

Bill Evans, owner of Metro Floor Covering, Garden City, has found people often take out the old wall-to-wall carpeting when they buy a house, refinish the floors and decorate with rugs.

"In some places, you see the softer color, more like a gallery effect," to help show off art in the house, he said.

Another option is to have the same carpeting throughout the house, often in ivory or oyster white, with different color furniture accents creating a different

look in each room, Evans said. **Right at home**

Carlen Landau Levine of West Bloomfield enjoys her contemporary rug in the living room. So much so that she may get a glass coffee table (if a table at all) so none of it will be covered, she said with a smile.

The all-wool rug, from Azar's, features muted tones — blue, apricot, celery green, rose — in an abstract pattern with straight black lines as accents. This design by Nourison is called "Mirage." The handmade rug from China is part of a brand-new line. It comes in other colors as well, in 10 by 14 feet.

Pillows on the couch and the cushion of the piano bench carry similar colors. The off-white couch and black chairs pick up the colors in the rug.

The rug is placed on an angle, matching the angle of the walls and ceiling.

"It just worked . . . It draws the whole room together," Landau Levine said. "I like seeing it when I come down the stairs . . . I get a ton of compliments on it."