

Looking at history: This East Roman limestone bust from the third century A.D. features the detail of the man's beard.



By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

At its most powerful, the Roman Empire stretched from Spain to Persia like a giant quilt, consisting of a variety of textures and patterns from the different cultures it absorbed.

East Roman art blended Roman aesthetics with those of indigenous peoples in what is now Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

The current display at Donna Jacobs Gallery Ltd., 574 N. Woodward in Birmingham, "East Roman Art: From the Frontier of an Empire," shows this in a dramatic way.

The exhibit, continuing through Nov. 7, features impressive stone busts and floor mosaics. But also included are everyday items. It tells of the strength

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and size of the empire, but also reminds one that real people lived in its borders.

Some busts, about 21 to 26 inches, in limestone, granite, show individual features: a curly beard, a draped toga. One powerful bust of the third century A.D. shows a man with massive shoulders and a square jaw. The laurel wreath on his head suggests his honor and dignity. Other busts, not as detailed, look like contemporary abstract sculpture.

A mosaic, 33-1/2 inches by 34-1/2

inches, from the fourth to sixth century A.D., features natural cut stones arranged in the image of a bird. Other mosaics present images in more subtle patterns.

A marble relief from the corner of a sarcophagus lid shows sheep and a good shepherd.

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Not all work depicts gods or

greatness. Some of it is from daily life: pottery, glass, textiles, oil lamps, jewelry and coins, for example. But there is beauty here, too. A delicate bowl of 5 1/4 inches in diameter from Asia Minor has thin walls and figures of gods and heroes. Early safety pins, and bronze keys apparently worn, as rings, have art in their practicality.

A tiny moonstone features the carving of an animal. Wrestlers and signatures are among the other images carved on items. Other plain stones are works of art themselves, such as the carnelian that changes color. Some beads are flat and bear faces. Other jewelry consists of finely twisted wire.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Call 640-1600.

## Seminar to offer money-making ideas

Non-profit organizations throughout the state will learn how to develop new revenue-producing concepts during a seminar Wednesday, Nov. 11, in Southfield.

Richard Steckel, author of "Fifty Rich and Other Non-Profit Fantasies: Changing the Way Non-Profit Do Business in the '90s," will chair the seminar, "Producing Money-making Ideas," at the Parks and Recreation Building, Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen.

Registration, excluding the box lunch fee of \$8, is \$35 for arts organizations supported

by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, \$55 for Accounting Aid Society members and \$85 for other participants.

Registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 6. For more information, call 318-1810.

Steckel is an internationally renowned consultant and speaker on non-profit marketing and for-profit public purpose marketing.

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place, dining room, fin-