

CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993



MARTY FIGLEY

Book generates ideas for popular geranium

The Complete Geranium: Cultivation, Cooking and Crafts," Susan Conder (Potter, \$18), showcases the many varieties of these popular plants.

Zonal, Deacon, Miniature, Ivy-Leaved, Scented and more are described in detail. Conder suggests combinations for growing and displaying them indoors and outside in most effective ways and tells how to care for and propagate them. The recipes tempt. A whole lot of information is packed into this small book.

Getting vegetables

"Jeff Ball's 60-Minute Vegetable Garden" (Macmillan, \$13, paperback) explains how to construct a high-yield vegetable garden that can be cared for by spending one hour per week to maintain it.

Each component of this garden design is engineered so that all parts fit together and can be constructed in stages. Raised beds, drip irrigation, vertical gardening, mulching — all are explained in easy-to-follow terms, with adequate illustrations.

For new or experienced gardeners, his ideas make sense. Ball is the "Today" gardening expert.

Rock talk

"Stonescoping: A Guide to Using Stone in Your Garden," Jan Kowalczewski Whitner (Garden Way, \$27.95 hardcover, \$17.95 paper), explains the use of stones in Chinese, Japanese and Western cultures from the beginning of gardening. The differences are sometimes subtle, yet unusual.

Whitner demonstrates how to use stone effectively in many ways in our gardens, from how to select the proper ones to instructions for making artificial stone troughs and stepping-stones (Hypocrepis). Included are ideas for many types of gardens applicable to today's lifestyles. To order Storey/Garden Way titles, call 1-800-827-8673.

If you know a young camera buff who has a pet (or watches a wild one), "My Pet: A Photolog Book," Janet Horowitz and Kathy Faggella (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, \$9.95, hardcover), will suit to a T. Sentences begin with ideas pertaining to the animal to be filled in by the child. Space is provided for mounting photos on suitable pages. Great.

What's in a name

Now that catalogs and nursery workers are using botanical names more and more on plant labels, "Gardener's Latin," Bill Neal (Algonquin, Books of Chapel Hill-Workman, \$14.95), will help you understand just what all these hard-to-pronounce words mean.

Don't try to digest this all in one sitting. Have it with you when shopping for plants, and soon these unfamiliar Latin words will become old friends. In addition to the glossary of many names, the borders of the pages are filled with remarks by other writers, fables and such to amuse and inform. A must for gardeners who want to know specifically what they are buying.

Data on daylilies

"A Passion for Daylilies," Sydney Eddison (Harper Collins, \$22), relates the remarkable journey that daylilies have made from the time they were first grown in the Far East thousands of years ago.

Eddison introduces us to many hybridizers and growers of the species and tells their story, how and why they are involved. The pure joy of working with the plants, from the beginner to the very successful grower, is clearly shown. You will learn how to hybridize and grow them (she indicates that it can be expensive).

To inquire about membership in the American Hemerocallis Society, write Elly Launius, Executive Secretary, 1454 Rebel Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39211.

Class schedule

Classes for the County Master Gardener program will begin Tuesday, Jan. 19, and run for eight weeks, each 6-10 p.m. in Oakland County.

Eight different aspects of gardening will be taught for this worthwhile volunteer training program. Cost is \$150, which includes much written material. When the student completes the required 40 hours of volunteer service, \$40 will be refunded. A Volunteer Fair will take place to introduce new master gardeners to volunteer opportunities.

Call your County Extension Office now for a registration form: Oakland, 858-0387; Livingston, 546-3956; Macomb, 469-6440; Wayne, 494-3005. Times and dates may vary.

The Detroit Garden Center will present its annual program and luncheon Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Rattlesnake Club in Detroit. Reservations are required by Thursday, Jan. 14. Call 259-8363 for information.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave a message by dialing 863-2647 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859.

Rivers' art flows with feeling

A lively exhibit by Larry Rivers at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham shows humor and other aspects of the artist's personality.

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER



The walls are alive with the exhibit of paintings and drawings by Larry Rivers, continuing through Jan. 24 at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham.

That's partly because of the images themselves, which seem to jump and sting in their spaces. That's partly because of the memories some of them generate. And that's partly because of the personality of the artist that comes through.

"They're active. They really are alive," said Ray Frost Fleming, Kidd Gallery director.

Both recent and earlier works by Rivers are on display at the gallery, 107 Townsend.

"He's what they call an artist's artist. Other artists really respected him."

Rivers, who was born in 1925, exploded on the art scene in the early 1950s with his plays on old master paintings and appropriated images from advertising.

He was amused that a cigar company used a Rembrandt painting to sell tobacco, and he added an artistic touch to that idea. He created oils and collages with images and logos for Dutch Masters, Camels and other tobacco products.

"Everybody thinks Andy Warhol (is) pop art. (Rivers) was actually pre-Andy Warhol."

"He's (Rivers) a very great appropriator. I think he has a great sense of humor."

"He takes things from popular culture, what's being used, and makes art out of it."

One such example at the Kidd Gallery is "Seated Webster: Beyond Stature." The three-dimensional work resembles a large Webster cigar box, with the rest of the figure's body drawn under Webster's portrait on the inside of the lid. The figure appears to be sitting in the cigars.

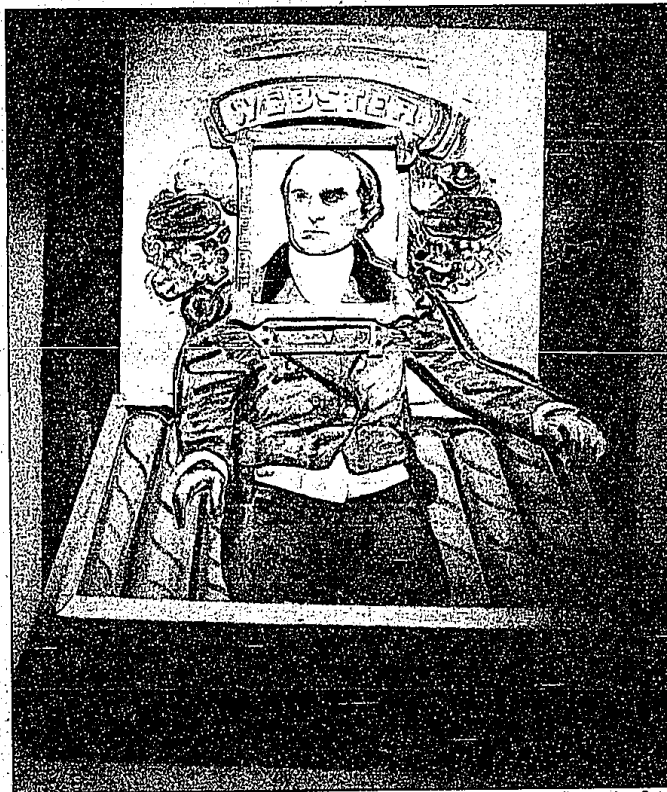
Drawing is very strong in Rivers' art. His works have skeleton drawings that are fleshed out by the paint. In some of them, graph lines show through.

"I got the feeling that he's very, very intelligent but likes to cover it up by joking around."

Rivers didn't stick to one style.

"He's the kind of guy who wants to try everything, taste everything."

When Rivers tried his hand at abstract art, "Summer of 1930" was one result. The work is a combination of broad strokes in deep, rich red, blue, white and black, and thin lines. It suggests different things, such as a woman's gartered leg, or someone holding a pair of glasses.



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY

But once they are pointed out, the two heads in the background and the upraised foot in the foreground become apparent, and it is realized that the work shows one person pushing another in a swing.

Rivers' sculpted, dimensional paintings are more recent. One of these works at the gallery, "Berdie 35 Years Later," is a takeoff on cubism. The chair in which the woman (Rivers' mother-in-law) is sitting is shown as a series of geometric fragments, as seen in cubist art.

"Dancing With Bomberg's Dancer: Relief" features an image of Fred Astaire before a jazzy jumble of lines and shapes that convey a rhythmic, sophisticated feeling.

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



Lively art: Larry Rivers puts such familiar figures as Webster (above) and Fred Astaire (left) to artistic use in his dimensional works. The colorful, lively pieces are exhibited at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham.

Icons find renewed spirit in West

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

A visit to the Dachau concentration camp in the spring proved to be a spiritual experience for Oakland County resident Joe Neussendorfer.

Neussendorfer of Pontiac, a construction association executive, went to the old Communist Eastern Bloc countries to study their apprenticeship and training methods. He was touched by the visit, and bought a religious icon near the site of the concentration camp. He was also impressed with the massive restoration work going on at churches in the Eastern Bloc.

When he got back to the United States, Neussendorfer began to investigate icon paintings. Art is his avocation, he said, and he became interested in painting, collecting and restoring icons. He joined the St. John of Damascus Association of Orthodox Iconographers, Iconologists and Architects, which is based in Ligonier,

Pa., and offered to share sources of information on the subject to encourage the painting, study, restoration and collection of icons.

"When I got back I vowed I was going to find out more about icons," said Neussendorfer, who has been a construction industry journalist and historian for more than 20 years.

"It seems to be such a keeper of religious culture... a very personal type of... art."

"It was an art form that was kind of

passed over for a long time by the West," said Phil Zimmerman of the St. John of Damascus association's icon studio. "Recently with glasnost in Russia and the opening up of Eastern Europe, there's kind of a renaissance or renewed interest in iconography."

The Pennsylvania group teaches the basics of iconography, and paints icons for churches and individuals.

See ICONS, 3D

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban area 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.

ON THE AIR

Some of this month's guest hosts on WQRS-FM's "Guess Who's Playing the Classics?" program, 9-10 p.m. Thursdays, have Oakland County connections.

Edward Kingins, tenor soloist at Temple Beth El of Birmingham, will be the guest host tonight. Among the many series and festivals in which Kingins has appeared are the Cranbrook and Meadow Brook festivals.

AUCTION ACTION

Do you have something to donate to the Cran-

Art Beat

Tamara Friedman, founder and owner of Tamara Institute de Beaute in Farmington Hills, will be the guest host Jan. 21. She opened her first business in Southfield, and moved to Farmington Hills when the business expanded. Dr. Rahul Sangal of the Sleep Disorders Institute will be the guest host Jan. 28. He serves on the medical staffs of Beaumont, Providence and St. Joseph Mercy hospitals, and is a member of the bulletin and legislative committees of the Oakland County Medical Society.

brook Academy of Art "Art and Antique Auction?"

Sotheby's will auction contemporary and antique objects and works of art April 3. Proceeds will go to the student scholarship fund. Donations are tax deductible.

Needed are silver, furniture, ceramics, textiles, china, rugs, paintings, sculpture and jewelry. Deliveries may be made at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills. If the item is too big, call 645-3309 for pickup.

CARTOON KUDOS

Gallery Animato, 574 N. Woodward in Birmingham, has received a special plaque from Disney Art Editions, the official source of art work from the Walt Disney Co.

"We are delighted to be associated with Disney Art Editions," said Elaine and Robert Athey of the gallery.