

Icons

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Its students come anywhere from Pennsylvania to New Zealand and belong to a variety of religions.

"The technique is very, very strict, very, very step-oriented," Zimmerman said.

"It's an art that you cannot go to school to learn."

An icon is a holy image to which special veneration is given. The figures depicted in icons often have an air of aloofness, which helps emphasize their divinity.

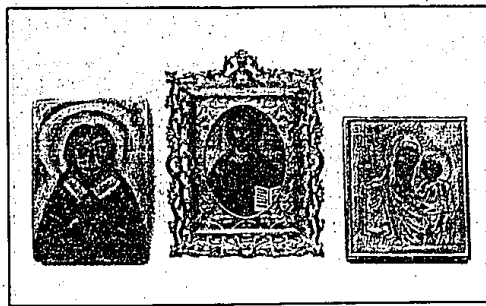
In Orthodox religions, the icon was considered of equal importance to the written word. It was thought that the appeal to the eyes was just as authoritative as the appeal to the ears.

In the eighth century, John of Damascus answered arguments that considered icons to be idolatrous. In his "Defense of Holy Images," he said that God couldn't be represented — being invisible, inconceivable and limitless — but that because God became man through Christ, Christ could and must be depicted in human form for the sake of man's salvation.

"The icon (is) an art object that seems to survive," said Neussendorfer, who also paints oil miniatures of birds, wildlife and other subjects.

"It's more open all the time. It's hung on the wall."

The Karres Gallery in Royal



DAN DEAR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oak recently featured wooden icons by Russian artist Arthur Filippov. Subjects of Filippov's detailed carvings included St. George and the dragon, and Christ on the cross.

"A lot of people have shown interest (in icons)," said gallery owner Sam Karres. "They ask about them."

"There's something about being Orthodox," said Karres, who was raised Greek Orthodox. "You believe in saints."

Neussendorfer, a Roman Catholic, compared icons to holy cards featuring the saints.

"You have some of that liberty to come up with a personalized (depiction)."

"It's a tremendous spiritual experience. It makes (artists) really

concentrate on religious images.

"Each one is so uniquely different. You get into the history and the story behind the saint."

Neussendorfer finds the icons inspire him while he works on his other art.

He shared these techniques for icon painting.

Cut a block of seasoned, thick hardwood to the desired size, then put gesso (a white, plaster of paris preparation) on the wood block. After the gesso has dried and hardened, sketch the religious saint or subject to be painted on the wood block.

Paint the icon subject's face and clothed body on the wood, using oil and gold leaf paints. After the oil paint has dried and hardened, the icon may be brushed with an artist's varnish.

Religious renderings:
Icons take on different faces, sometimes framed or enclosed in thin metal. The icon on the left is one painted by Joe Neussendorfer of Pontiac.

Framing the icon is optional. If the icon is left without a frame, a small device to hang the work may be nailed on the reverse side.

For more information on icon painting and literature, write: St. John of Damascus Association of Orthodox Iconographers, Iconologists and Architects, Route 711 North, P.O. Box 638, Ligonier, Pa. 15658-0638.

Dormition Skete Icons, P.O. Box 3177, Buena Vista, Colo. 81211.

St. Vladimir's Seminary Bookstore, 575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, N.Y. 10707.

Workshop on Iconography, St. Matthew Orthodox Church, 4102 Hickman Drive, Torrance, Calif. 90501.

Quilting to be topic Jan. 12

Machine quilting will be the program topic of the Tuesday, Jan. 12, meeting of the Needlework and Textile Guild of Michigan.

The meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. at the First Methodist Church of Birmingham. Guests

are welcome, fee \$5. For more information, call 642-3842 or 689-4478.

Sue Nickels of Ann Arbor, a nationally recognized quilter, will present a review of machine quilting and discuss where it fits in quilting today.

Plaster class set

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts offers a three-day plaster carving workshop for adults 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 20 to Feb. 3.

Participants will carve sculptural forms from plaster and paint with acrylic. It's fun and easy.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 13. For more information, call the PCCA at 651-4110.

Write on in series

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts offers a five-day workshop for adults, "Your Mythic Journey," 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 21 to Feb. 18.

Participants will tap into their senses and learn to express themselves creatively through experimental writing.

Registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 14. For more information, call the PCCA at 651-4110.



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Birmingham Musicale starts new year in song

The Birmingham Musicale begins the new year 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

A tea will follow the musical program. Guests are welcome for a nominal contribution. For more information, call 659-5284. Cheryl Krul is chairman of the day.

Pianist Mary Sturman Holmes will open the program playing "Adagio in B minor, K. 540" by

Mozart and "Barcarole, Op. 60" by Chopin.

Soprano Maureen Kennedy, accompanied by Fontaine Laing, will perform "Meine Liebe Ist Grün" by Felix Schumann, "Nun Will Die Sonn So Hell Aufgehn" by Gustav Mahler, "Widmung (Dedication)" by Robert Schumann, "Bessie Bobbitt" by Samuel Barber and "It Goes Like It Goes" by David Shire.

A string quartet composed of Flo McBride, violin; John Ronal, violin; Traci Riggs, viola; and Timothy Nicola, cello; will close the program.

Holmes has degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan. She has taught privately and is currently studying with Flavio Varani at Oakland University, where she has an accompanying assistantship.

Kennedy has degrees in choral conducting and vocal pedagogy. She is director of the Madison Choral and does freelance conducting in area churches.

Laing is a well-known soloist, accompanist and teacher. She is pianist with the Ambassador Chamber Players Quintet. Laing received degrees from the University of Texas and the U-M.

Midwest photographers to meet this weekend

Photographers of all description — beginners and professionals, shutterbugs, snapshoters and camera collectors — from all over the Midwest will meet Satur-

day-Sunday, Jan. 9-10, at the Southfield Pavilion, on Evergreen at 10-1/4 Mile in Southfield, for Winter Photorama USA.

Photorama will be open 10 a.m.

to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for both days. For more information, call the Photorama hot line at 884-2243.

A free shutter check will be offered by Mid-West Camera. Dealers will display new and used hard-to-find photo equipment.

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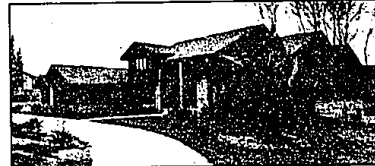
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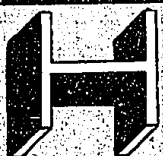
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