

CREATIVE LIVING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1993



MARY KLEMIC

Painter shares his love of urban life

The Xochipilli Gallery, 568 N. Woodward in Birmingham, is serving up an urban slice of life by painter Don Jacot, formerly of Detroit.

Jacot was trained as a physician's assistant. He left his medical career and Detroit to paint full time in San Francisco. His works, exhibited to Feb. 6, show his love for city life, his cars whether it is robust or ailing.

Gritty scenes have dignity, romance or pathos. Jacot's painting of an industrial complex on the Detroit River at night features shimmering reflections and a glowing moon. GM Headquarters in the background of an abandoned residence, and a billboard proclaiming "The Heartbeat of America is Winning" watches over an old, pothole-marked street.

The Detroit Institute of Arts at closing time is seen as a mysterious collection of graceful, ornate curves and cloaks of shadow.

Paintings of a freight train, a cement plant, the outside of Tiger Stadium with the Opening Day crowd each carry their individual melodies.

Details speak of caring. The painting of a bustling San Francisco cafe includes a cigarette pack tucked under the counter. A Chicago turnstile features worn boards in the floor and torn signs, but another sign at the booth graciously asks the customer to "kindly request" what is needed.

Monumental

Pat Howard is an artist who gets beyond the surface. Her first show in Michigan, continuing through Jan. 30 at Artpace, 534 N. Woodward in Birmingham, features works in oil over acrylic on stretched canvas.

Most of the paintings are large, averaging 72 inches square. They include scratches and rework in the surface, revealing the record of how they were made. At first glance they resemble iron, concrete or wood. Their sections are arranged symmetrically, adding a grace to each work.

Cultural collaboration

The colorful paintings on display through Jan. 23 at Galerie 454, 176 S. Woodward in Birmingham, may look familiar. That could be because they feature images that resemble ancient symbols and motifs.

The works are a collaboration by Al Hinton, professor of the arts at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and Sei Shinohara of Tokyo. The pieces remind the viewer of the similarities between ancient and modern cultures and peoples.

Animals congregate around a pool. Fossils are layered in the ground. The tail of a bull turns into a snake. Fish and other creatures swim in a dark sea. They have a mysterious air about them, presented in surroundings of deep, softly glowing colors that look like minerals.

Earthly delights

The Habatat/Shaw Gallery, 32255 Northwest Highway in Farmington Hills, is featuring ceramic works by three young sculptors through Jan. 23. The pieces have a natural or geologic look, as if they were unearthed.

Gally Brogren's pedestal and wall sculptures combine geometric and organic elements. Their surfaces resemble bark or wool. Wall sculptures by Ruth Dorando Marcy have textures like that of a plant or textile and are symmetric. Yun-Dong Nam makes wall sculptures that resemble pods or larvae.

Also at Habatat/Shaw to Jan. 16 are contemporary jewelry pieces. Some have glitz and glitter, like Richard Mawdsley's creation of a little theater sign, with pearls for bulbs. Others follow a natural route, like Beverly Penn's necklace apparently made of twigs.

Robert and Loes Falb combine stamps featuring images of Anne Frank and Van Gogh into a work of art. John Iversen's simple but elegant works are large, smooth disks of off-white, red and blue trimmed in gold.

Blooming bounty

If the recent snow made you wonder if spring will ever get here, stop by the Civic Center Gallery, 26000 Evergreen in Southfield, to see the floral watercolors by Sheila Smith exhibited there to Jan. 29.

Smith, a Southfield resident, presents a fresh bouquet of a variety of flowers. Their delicacy is captured by the subtle coloring of the works. The blossoms are shown in circular compositions, which follows their graceful lines and curves.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at 644-1100, Ext. 245.



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

He stays upbeat about music



Bloomfield Hills resident Zalman "Tiny" Konikow, president of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit, carries an upbeat message about the power of music. His activities with the society have made him many friends and brought him many honors.

lined up to shake his hand.

Konikow, now a Bloomfield Hills resident, still is enthusiastic over music today, more than 50 years later. He is president of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit, which has offices in Troy.

"The Detroit Symphony Orchestra is the heart of the musical scene, the Chamber Music Society is the soul," said Konikow, who is a children's dentist in Huntington Woods.

Konikow was given a Special Recognition Award at the eighth annual Governors' Arts Awards in November in Detroit. Sunday in New York he

usher, I'm gonna be an usher."

The woman in charge of the young ushers at Orchestra Hall had told him he could be an usher there when he got long pants. The event was so memorable that family members

will be presented with a Distinguished Service Award at the 15th national conference of Chamber Music America, the national service organization for chamber music in the United States.

"He loves music and he loves people," said Maury Okun, executive director of the Chamber Music Society. "He has a genuine love for both."

"It's astounding what an ambassador he is," said Mary Wright, director of the Xochipilli Gallery in Birmingham. "He's very sincere. He has built

See KONIKOW, 10D

Root for fiber art

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

These artists work with every fiber of their being, and then some.

They are participating in the Michigan Weavers Guild exhibition, continuing through Jan. 30 at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1616 S. Cranbrook Road, north of 14 Mile in Birmingham.

The show features a large reed basket. Fifteen guild members made the basket, each working on a section. Old ties and other materials are available for visitors to use to add their own touches to the piece.

"I think for kids too it will be fun," said show chairman Danielle Bodine of Bloomfield.

"These days weaving is so varied. Now it's including baskets, dolls; it's really expanded to include fiber arts."

"It's tactile," Bodine said in explaining the art's appeal. "People can touch it and relate to their past, as a family member may have woven items, she said.

The works displayed at the BBAA include a variety of fiber art. Baskets large and small, in natural, bright or black colors. Abstract wall hangings. Scenes and portraits in threads and other materials. Sweaters. Dollies. Placemats. Blankets. A miniature

See EXHIBIT, 10D



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Super basket: Danielle Bodine of Bloomfield, chairman of the Michigan Weavers Guild fiber art show at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, adds an embellishment to a giant basket made by guild members. Visitors to the show are invited to add their own touches to the basket.

Bronze stars at center

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

It was 1915. The Panama Canal was officially opened the previous year, joining the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. One of the great American world's fairs was organized in San Francisco to celebrate this accomplishment. Painters, sculptors and architects joined in a colossal collaboration.

The astounding sights at the fair included a monumental pair of fountain figures in plaster by Adolph Weinman. They stood on huge decorated columns in the 700-by-900-foot Court of the Universe, called the "meeting place of the hemispheres."

Now, more than 75 years later, visitors to The Somerset Collection at Big Beaver Road and Cooldige in Troy can sample the elegance and history of the fair. A pair of bronze figures, cast from Weinman's working models for the large plaster figures, is on permanent display at the shopping center.

See BRONZES, 6D

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.

■ UNBUTTON FOR ART

If you were among the many visitors to First Night/Birmingham, the third annual New Year's Eve arts festival, don't throw away your admission button.

Turn in the button before Jan. 18 at a participating Birmingham business, and \$1 will be donated in your name to Cityscapes, an art project that brings sculptures to public areas in the

community. For more information about Cityscapes, write the Cultural Council of Birmingham/Bloomfield, P.O. Box 465, Birmingham 48012.

The participating "Unbutton for Art" merchants are Albin's Restaurant on Hunter; the Ariana Gallery; Astrelin's Jewelry, Caswell-Massey, Harmony House, Mills Pharmacy and Marley's Cookie Co. on Maple; Barbara's Paper Bag on Pierce; the Brown Street Market on Brown; and I Can't Believe It's Yogurt, Neighborhood Hardware, Orthogonality, PDQ Printing and R. DeLaura Clothier on Woodward.

■ KING PORTRAIT

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, a black and white portrait of the civil rights leader is displayed on the second floor of the Oakland County Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac, this week.

■ INTRODUCTION IN ORDER

New Detroit Zoo director Ron Kagan will be introduced to the public (invitation only) 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, at The Somerset Collection, Big Beaver Road and Cooldige in Troy. This will be the first viewing of the exhibit of Andy Warhol's "Endangered Species" prints, presented by the Detroit Zoological Society. The Warhol display will continue in the Somerset rotunda through Feb. 10.

Art Beat