

CREATIVE LIVING

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State arts support gets 'all-A' effort

It's literally an "A-plus" effort to strengthen public support for the arts in Michigan. That's "A" as in the Arts Action Alliance, an organization made up of citizen volunteers. It will work to persuade decision makers that government support for the arts is in the public interest. The AAA replaces Michigan Advocates for the Arts and is allied with Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan.

Bloomfield Hills resident Leon Cohan, former Michigan Council for the Arts chairman, is president of the new organization.

"The arts are not only vital to our quality of life, they strengthen our state's economy, provide jobs, help our youth find positive and rewarding channels for their energy, and they help make Michigan a stronger state and a better place to live," said Cohan, a CCAM board member.

"There are many important and powerful forces competing for public support. That is understandable, but we believe there should also be a strong voice for the arts in this process. That is the role of AAA."

The state art budget shouldn't be cut in a greater percentage than other programs not directly related to economic hardship, Cohan said.

A fair benchmark would be percentage decreases or increases in the total budget of the executive office, the Legislature, the attorney general's office and the treasurer, he said.

"We will be civil, but not timid. We value the arts, and our state requires articulate, energetic and intelligent advocacy. We intend to fulfill that important responsibility," Cohan said.

For more information, call the AAA at 964-2787.

BBAA boosters

More art support is brewing with three morning coffees scheduled for Feb. 2, 4 and 9 at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham.

Invited guests from government, automotive companies and suppliers, local corporations, professionals and cultural groups will be treated to a continental breakfast, presentation and walking tour of the facility.

The events are part of the "Art in Action" campaign of the BBAA Advisory Council, recently formed by local corporate leaders with the common goal of achieving greater public awareness and appreciation for the BBAA.

Companies represented in the council include senior management from major automotive corporations and automotive suppliers.

"Art is one area where regardless of religion, race, education or age, people may share the same feelings about beauty and harmony," said council chairman Francis Castaing, Chrysler Corp. vice president of vehicle engineering.

He and others were moved to lend their corporate presence to the BBAA's public awareness effort since "the BBAA provides such a great community service," Castaing said.

Founded in 1956, the BBAA offers more than 100 classes, exhibitions and lectures. About 1,500 students from 60 communities in the metropolitan Detroit area attend each term.

"Primarily, we seek to educate people regarding the noble effort under way at the BBAA. Greater appreciation and understanding of the caliber of programs offered by the BBAA will strengthen community participation and support."

Fabulous fabrics

A fashionable way to travel is exhibited to Jan. 28 at the County Galleria, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac. By viewing the display, "Ethnic Clothing and Textiles From Around the World," visitors may easily imagine themselves in other lands.

The collection was loaned by the Yates Mill Chapter of the Rochester Quilters. It includes coats, blouses, wall hangings and crazy quilts. Crazy quilts had their heyday from about 1876 to 1900. They were composed of multicolored, odd-shaped pieces of different fabrics randomly stitched together.

Another unusual item on display is a 55-by-120-inch tapestry of a world map. It was made by Ann Janitz, whose work has been exhibited at the Troy Public Library and Royal Oak Art in the Park.

Feast of lights

The exhibit "Feast of Lights: Art and Tradition of the Hanukkah Lamp" is a historical lesson that touches the emotions. Featuring almost 100 hanukkah lamps, books and posters, it runs through Jan. 28 at the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery, in the Jewish Community Center at 6600 W. Maple in West Bloomfield.

The pieces are made from many different materials, including silver, brass, wrought iron, tin, bronze and marble. They come from Austria-Hungary, Poland, Germany, Israel and Mexico, among other countries. Some of them date as far back as the 1700s.

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

Movers and shapers American craft celebrated



BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

In different ways, the "Living Treasures" exhibition continuing through Feb. 6 at the Sybaris Gallery, 301 W. Fourth in Royal Oak, gets back to roots.

These "roots" are the materials used — fiber, clay, wood and metal; elements that come from the earth. And these "roots" are historical as well. In 1953, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the American Craft Council, has been established as the Year of American Craft. The display celebrates this by highlighting the culturally diverse and individual, functional and fantastic, art work of the hands.

The show features 12 artists, born between 1907 and 1934, who are senior members of the craft movement. They have distinguished themselves in their respective media in sculptural pieces, furniture and jewelry.

Rudolf Staffel calls his porcelain art "Light Gatherers." The vessels have a soft, creamy glow. One features the inscription, "You Are Forever Chosen to Have This Magnificent

Piece of Pottery." The inscription on another piece, "New," is written in irregularly shaped block letters that look more like an abstract pattern.

Paul Soldner turns ceramics inside out. His narrow-necked vase has a smooth, shining interior and comparatively rougher exterior. A large, abstract piece in clay has a variety of textures. Such images as a face or fish scales are suggested in it. Soldner was the central figure of the ceramic revolution that began in the 1950s. He introduced the low-fire process called American style raku.

Fiber takes artistic shape in the hands of Lenore Towney and Sheila Hicks. Towney, a major force in redefining postwar weaving, freed weaving from the boundaries of the loom. Her fiber sculpture in canvas and linen hangs from the ceiling in slender, flowing, hairlike strands that create sculptural art works with the shadows they form.

Hicks forms cotton, silk, linen and wool into round, colorful pods. Gathered on a table, the little bundles seem ready to burst into bloom.

Arthur Espenet Carpenter and Sam

Malool are two early pioneers in furniture making. The joinings and grains in their wood works flow together so smoothly that the pieces seem naturally formed.

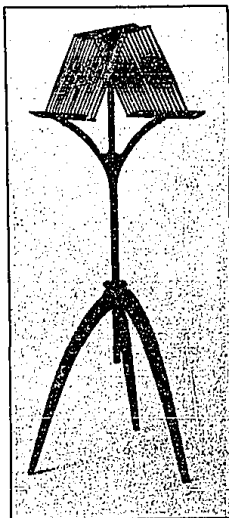
Carpenter's rosewood music stand features graceful, symmetric lines. The curves of the stand and those of the base are similar.

A maple rocking chair by Malool has ebony accents on the nails and legs. The back curves inward, and the seat is molded, so that the chair embraces the person sitting in it. In a walnut and ebony settee by Malool, the grain of the wood is centered in each section.

Ramona Solberg was one of the first jewelers to use found objects in contemporary jewelry. She makes humble objects into ornaments. The everyday items she uses include game pieces, buttons, beads and porcelain shards.

Melvin Lindquist and Ed Moulthrop polished the art of woodturning. Lindquist's vases, bowls and vessels can be rough or smooth. Moulthrop's vessels may be squat or tall. His "Donut Bowl" resembles a thick donut.

Also featured are ceramic works by Robert Sperry, and metal pieces by John Prip and June Schwarz, who invented her own electroplating process.

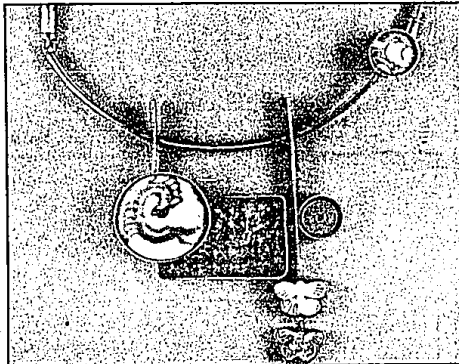


Harmonious work: This rosewood music stand by Arthur Espenet Carpenter is a symphony of curves.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday or by appointment. Call 644-3388.

'Living Treasures,' an exhibit at the Sybaris Gallery in Royal Oak, highlights the work of 12 artists to celebrate the Year of American Craft.

Wood wonder: This vase by Melvin Lindquist puts a different spin on woodturning.



Crafty art: This necklace by Ramona Solberg is one of the pieces exhibited at the Sybaris Gallery in Royal Oak. The display celebrates the Year of American Craft.

Artists put heart into benefit auction work

Cupid won't be the only one making valentines this February. So will nearly 100 artists from galleries, studios and schools throughout southeastern Michigan and other parts of the country as they prepare for the fifth annual Art from the Heart auction.

Just in time for the February observance of National Heart Month and Valentine's Day, the auction will include great gift ideas for that special someone. The auction will take place 7-10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, at the Machus Sly Fox Restaurant, 725 S. Hunter in Farmington Hills.

The event will be hosted by WJR Radio personality Jimmy Lounce and will feature a hearty Heart Smart Machus buffet including desserts, plus a complimentary wine and cash

■ 'The event continues to grow each year. It's all for a great cause.'

Phebe Goldstein

bar. Entertainment will be provided by pianist Mary Agnello.

"We are especially excited about this year's event because we have a more diverse group of artists participating than ever before," said Phebe Goldstein of Birmingham, who co-chairs Art from the Heart with Dr. Sidney Goldstein, director of the Henry Ford Heart and Vascular Institute, and Nina and Bob Machus of the Machus Sly Fox Restaurant.

"The event continues to grow each year. It's all for a great cause." Admission is \$25 per person, \$40 of which is a tax-deductible gift to the Henry Ford Heart and Vascular Institute. For more information and to make reservations, call Vicki Robinson at 876-9393. The event is open to the public.

All proceeds will benefit the cholesterol research program of the institute, which is aimed at the early identification, treatment and prevention of coronary artery disease. Last year, more than \$27,000 was raised.

This year, the live and silent auctions will include original cartoons, ceramics, clothing, jewelry, paintings and photographs. Many artists are returning to participate, among them faculty and students from both the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. In addition, works from many new artists will be auctioned.

For the first time, guests will be able to buy valentines made by art students from Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School under the direction of art teacher Vanessa Burrell. These valentines will be unusual because they will be made from recycled materials.

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.

■ GALLERY CHANGE

The Sheldon Ross Gallery, 250 Martin in Birmingham, has decided to go private. On or about Feb. 1, it will be open under this new format.

Plans are for the gallery to go through a short period of remodeling and wind down to about the public during regular weekly hours as previously. All viewings will be by appointment only. Letters will be sent out every few months listing new acquisitions and consigned items for sale.

The gallery will continue to concentrate on German expressionists, early 20th century Amer-

Art Beat

icans and works by Romare Bearden. Calls and inquiries during its changeover in the next few weeks are welcome. Call 268-9550.

■ ART EXHIBIT

An exhibit, "Art Therapy: Images of Growth and Creativity in Context," is on view through Jan. 30 at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn. The show features the work of Michigan art therapists and their clients and is sponsored by the Michigan Association of Art Therapy to commemorate the 15th anniversary of MAAT's founding. Watercolors, oils, aquatint and clay are some of the media used. Art therapists from Southfield, Bloomfield Hills, Waterford, Grosse Pointe and Ferndale are among those represented.

The display includes a series of watercolors by one of the clients of art therapist Delores Fordree, a Rochester resident, is currently working primarily with the elderly. She has also worked at Children's Village, Havenwynck Hospital and Clinton Valley. The watercolors are by a senior citizen active in the Older Person's Center.

■ ON THEIR TOES

The Detroit Dance Collective will celebrate 13 years of vision, imagination and education with a "We Gotta Have HeArT" Valentine's Day performance/brunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, at the Metropolitan Music Cafe in downtown Royal Oak.

Participants will help keep dance alive in the Detroit area and benefit the many community outreach programs sponsored by the DDC, which is based at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak. Donation is \$35. Space is limited. Call 544-5550 for reservations and information.