

# CREATIVE LIVING

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## Antiques fest arranges events

■ An antiques festival in Birmingham will feature a show, lectures and other events that can put collectibles in a new light.

By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

If you think there's nothing new in antiques, stop by the Birmingham Antiques Festival. The festival, taking place at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, will feature a tour, a luncheon, a preview party, lectures and a show, each of which can present new information about or a new way of looking at antiques.

One of the speakers is author and lecturer Graham Hood, who was cura-

tor of American art at the Detroit Institute of Arts 1968-71. Hood will present "An Introduction to Connoisseurship" at the luncheon Tuesday, March 30.



Hood

"If you're doing it (collecting antiques) just for investment you miss something," Hood said. "You miss an important part of it." Why are antiques so popular? "Because they're old and you have a certain respect for that. They have a sense of worth because of the amount of work that has gone into them. They have a sense of dignity," Hood, a native of Stratford-on-

Avon, England, joined the staff of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as vice president and director/curator in 1971. He was responsible for, and coordinated, the massive refurbishing of the governor's palace at Williamsburg, 1979-81.

American antiques "have a different character or accent" from European antiques, Hood said.

"They are special in this country because they are part of the national school.

"(European antiques) are sometimes much more remarkable, much more sophisticated, perhaps more spectacular in terms of materials used."

Anyone interested in learning about antiques should go to museums and talk with dealers and auc-

tioners. "That's what they're there for." Forty exhibitors will participate in the show. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, April 2, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 3, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 4. Admission is \$5 per person.

For more information on the show or other events, call 644-5832.

A collection tour and tea will take place 2-5 p.m. Monday, March 29. Participants will see four private collections in home settings. Tea will be served at an additional home. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes a general admission ticket to the festival's show. Tour and tea reservations are limited to 250 people.

See ANTIQUES, 5D



## DIA ads sound call; this show all in vane

Number, please. That's all it takes to help the Detroit Institute of Arts and make it easier for youngsters to learn about art firsthand. The DIA has launched an innovative advertising campaign in which people can get information about the museum and make an instant donation. By calling 1-800-THE-DIA-93, a person can have the donated amount charged on his or her next phone bill.

It's part of the DIA "Partnership for Renewal" program to raise \$24 million in donations over the next five years. The 90-day ad campaign started in February. You probably know the 60-second TV spot, which shows youngsters exploring the DIA, or the print ads, which feature paintings of children in the DIA collection.

Two Southfield-based businesses are involved in the project — the W.B. Doner and Co. advertising agency and WKBD-TV Fox 60, which was approached by W.B. Doner. The agency created the campaign as a public service, and the station is one of six media participants that agreed to give extensive advertising time and space to the DIA.

"We were very enthusiastic about it," said Duane Kell, WKBD-TV vice president and general manager. "We think it's terrific. We think it meshes perfectly with the all-family (nature) of our television station."

Chris Grindem, senior vice president at W.B. Doner, called the phone number method "user friendly."

"You're in and out of the system very efficiently," he said. "When we did our research, the consumers liked that idea. It's so simple."

### All in vane

Art is a breeze — or rather, in the breeze — for Jane Corbus and Jeff Crewe.

The two New England artists make whirligigs, whimsical wind machines that take many shapes. Their works are exhibited through March 27 at Sandra Collins, 470 N. Woodward in Birmingham (call 642-4785).

Today's whirligig can trace its ancestry back to the weather vane, which came before the Christian era. In medieval times, weather vanes were used primarily for decoration or to display a family coat of arms.

By the 12th century, farmers and sailors realized the vanes could be used in weather forecasting. Colonists brought weather vanes to America, where the devices became so popular they were placed on almost every barn. Whirligigs came about more as toys in the 18th century.

Corbus and Crewe use such modern materials as plastic and weather-resistant stainless steel and brass, replacing the antique wood and wire. Both artists are industrial designers who first achieved prominence making showrooms and large-scale exhibition spaces. They now make wind machines full time.

Among the works on display at Sandra Collins is a rabbit that runs, its ears and legs moving a wheel that munches on a corn cob; a dog that barks silently, one ear rising and its tail pumping; a stegosaurus that marches methodically; a fish that goes into aquarium action.

A snapping lobster consists of 30 handmade parts and more than 100 pieces of hardware. It is a wonder of imagination and innovation, its complex components put into motion by a simple breeze.

A work called "Fog Warning" was inspired by the Winslow Homer painting of that name. It features a raincoat-clad figure in a boat who rows steadily and relentlessly in the wind. A piece that hangs from a ceiling, a humpback whale, opens its jaws and spins its tail.

### Cranbrook update

If you see Tony Hepburn at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, you won't have to ask him "What's happening?"

That's because you'll know what's happening, at least regarding his installation in progress there, "Do Not Think About the Blue Doot." You may catch Hepburn at work and talk to him.

When we last left Hepburn at the site last month, the intrepid artist was working on the early stages of the installation. A clay vessel was between his knees and waist in height.

A visit there Friday afternoon showed that the vessel is now taller and has a narrow opening. And a larger clay vessel, in which Hepburn plans to sit (working or reading), now rises majestically from what was a bare space. And he has added to the drawing of the scene on one wall.

What other changes await? What will visitors have to say? How will the artist respond? And how does he get in and out of the big vessel? Tune in by stopping at the museum, 1221 N. Woodward, before March 28. Call 646-3312.

See PHOTOS, 5D

## Arts to be celebrated

By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

The sunlight streaming through the wide windows in the room where Justin Anderson works on his paintings isn't the only brightness found there.

It pales in comparison to the cheer and inspiration offered by Anderson, whose paintings will be featured in the Festival of the Arts Friday-Sunday, March 19-21, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, between Lahar and Evergreen in Bloomfield Township.

"He's making a big comeback here with the art work," said his mother, Bonnie.

Anderson, who graduated from Seaholm High School in 1987, won scholarships from seven art schools. He attended the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence for two years.

As he paints bright, vibrant flowers and forests in acrylic and watercolor, Anderson faces windows overlooking the yard of his Bingham Farms home.

The artist plans on combining visual art and computer technology, working with the Rhode Island School of Design.

"It's really doing some very interesting work," said arts festival chairwoman Martha Cormie.

The festival will be a celebration and showcase for the performing and visual fine arts.

It will feature a gallery setting of jewelry, paintings, photography, sculpture, fiber, graphics, glass, pottery, metalworking, handmade stamp printing and fine jewelry by 34 artists from a variety of communities, including Rochester Hills, Troy, Farm-



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Blooming talent: Justin Anderson of Bingham Farms shows two of his colorful flower and forest paintings. Anderson will be one of the area artists featured this weekend at the Festival of the Arts at Nativity Episcopal Church in Bloomfield Township.

ington Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield. All items will be for sale. The show will be accompanied by musical performances.

This will be the church's first arts festival in about eight years, Cormie said. It's a way of welcoming new minister Anne Cox.

"We thought it would be a nice way to celebrate her coming to our

church," Cormie said. For more information, call the church office at 646-4100 or Cormie at 647-0160.

Hours Friday are 7-10:30 p.m., with a wine and cheese reception. Donation is \$5 per person. Cecelia Webster will perform on the dulcimer and Celtic harp 8-10 p.m.

Saturday, the art show will take place 1-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. The Bel

Canto Quartet will sing classical, pop, opera and Broadway songs 8-9 p.m. The offering for the concert is \$5.

Show hours Sunday are 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A choral group with organist Melissa Eldson, and a liturgical dance, will take place 10:30 a.m. A raffle for two handblown glass pieces by Sylvia Vignetti of Beverly Hills will be featured that day. Raffle tickets are \$1 each.

## Book about pet is labor of love

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

"Maya's First Rose" — Diary of a Very Special Love" is a valentine from the heart of composer/musician Martin Scot Kosins to a precious pooch named Maya. It is a tale of love, loyalty, commitment and devotion.

Kosins and illustrator Howard Fridson will autograph copies of the book 1 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at Paw Pourri in Royal Oak. All proceeds benefit the Michigan Humane Society.

As book jacket notes state, "Anyone who has ever loved and lost a pet will find solace, hope and inspiration

by reading 'Maya's First Rose.'" Maya, a great big, lovable, part Shepherd-part Boxer, lived to the age of 17 with Kosins. The last two years of her life they were inseparable, he caring for and nursing Maya all the while sacrificing family, friends and career.

### Helping hand

"This was the experience of my life. It was a labor of love," Kosins said in an interview at his Huntington Woods home.

"The first few months on the job playing piano, I found it hard. I was totally lost. My whole schedule revolved around her every breath."

"The purpose of the book is to help

people. We agreed, we wanted it to be uplifting and of a lighter vein," Fridson said in an interview from his Royal Oak studio.

"When Marty was going through this experience he looked for help and wasn't able to find any. I lost a cat

See BOOK, 10D

Caring, sharing: Martin Scot Kosins, shown here with Maya, has written a book about his love for his pet and the loss he felt when Maya died.



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.

### ART ASSISTANCE

Jacobson's in Birmingham is involved in a program that will establish an endowment for Michigan students attending one of the United Negro College Fund's 41 colleges.

As part of the fund-raising effort, Jacobson's is offering beautiful original limited edition lithographs and signed posters of "The Elements" by Emil Weddige. All of the proceeds will go directly to the UNCF to establish an endowed scholarship fund. Prices are \$1,500 for a framed lithograph, \$1,200 for an unframed lithograph and

## Art Beat

\$100 for a poster. Weddige's work will be sold exclusively at all Jacobson's stores in metro Detroit. The Jacobson's store in Birmingham is at 336 W. Maple.

Weddige is a renowned lithographer and University of Michigan faculty member who has contributed this work to the UNCF.

### HONORÉE

June Akers Seese, formerly of Troy, is one of seven Wayne State University alumni to be honored at WSU's 17th annual Arts Achievement Awards program, 4 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in

the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. The program is part of a three-day celebration of the arts to showcase arts programs and events that are regular features of the University Cultural Center. For more information, call 677-2246.

Seese earned a bachelor's degree in English at WSU and taught in the Detroit Public Schools. She is the author of three books and numerous published stories. Seese lectures and performs in theatrical productions, and regularly presents book readings throughout the South, New Jersey and Michigan.

### BOXER BENEFIT

The Detroit Artists Market is this year's beneficiary at the eighth annual Boxer Short Auction 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at Patti Smith in Royal Oak. Call 399-0756 for more information.