

Honored art



JOHN STORMANS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BBAА bonus: Margaret Serratori of West Bloomfield holds her painting, which received the James W. Atkinson Fund Award in the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association student show and was chosen for the Birmingham Civic Collection. The show continues through March 27 at the BBAА, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham. Other awards in the exhibit went to Anita Damiani (best in show), Deborah Friedman (second prize) and Marty Sinn Catalano (third prize).

Develop imagination with photograms



MONTE NAGLER

A photogram is the simplest kind of photograph to make. You don't even need a camera or enlarger. All that's required is a room that gets dark, photographic paper, a light source, chemicals, trays and your imagination.

Of course, a regular darkroom with an enlarger will give you more flexibility, but it's not really necessary.

How do you make photograms, which, as a note of interest, have been around since the mid-19th century?

The process is so simple even a child can produce them. Under suitable conditions (you can use a sunlight bulb in a table lamp) lay out a piece of photographic paper. Now, using your imagination, arrange objects on the paper such as scissors, keys, cardboard cutouts, etc. You'll find many everyday household items that can be used.

Turn on the normal room light for just a few seconds to expose the paper. Whatever you've placed in the path of the light will create a white silhouette once the paper is developed. (A brief note on developing: All that's required are three trays of chemicals — developer, stop bath and fixer, used in this order.)

You may have to experiment to get a proper exposure time but this won't be hard to do.

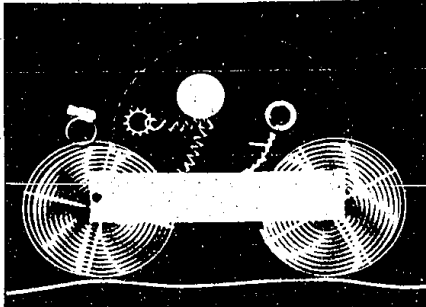
For those with darkrooms, use your enlarger as the light source, exposing with a time long enough to produce a rich black on the uncovered areas of the paper.

The sharpness of the edges of the silhouettes depends on the thickness of the object. Flat objects such as a key will produce crisp, easily recognizable shapes, whereas a more three-dimensional item will result in a softer image, perhaps adding more mood to your photogram.

Many amateurs will make a few photograms as a means of introduction to the darkroom but won't continue because the process appears too easy and too limited.

This need not be true. By allowing your imagination and creativity to flow, you can come up with many exciting photogram ideas.

For example, use translucent or transparent objects to give you varying degrees of gray tones in the finished print. Also, anything that reflects, refracts or diffuses light is worthy of experimentation. Broken glass or crumpled cellophane can make photograms



Developing Imagination: Monte Nagler produced this photogram of an imaginative "car" by using simple objects he found in his home and darkroom.

of unusual interest. If you have an enlarger, how about superimposing a negative right onto the photogram?

I made the photogram of this "automobile" by using such simple objects as washers, metal filings, a ruler, film reels and a piece of string for the roadway.

Whatever types of photograms you elect to do, you'll find that the spirit of imagination and experimentation is the key to success.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave a message by dialing 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873.

County businesses in builders show

The International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show, the 76th annual home show presented by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, will feature products and services for home and garden at the Cobo Conference-Exhibition Center in Detroit.

The event will run March 20-28. Hours are 9-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$5.75, or \$3.50 for children 6-12 and seniors, free for children under 6.

Family tickets for two adults and accompanying children are

available at Farmer Jack/A & P for \$8. Two-for-one tickets are available at MetroCell Security/Metro 25 TIRE. Discount admission coupons were mailed to homeowners in their Consumers Power and Detroit Edison bills. Free admission coupons for Monday, March 22, are available at all Frank's Nursery and Craft stores. Call 737-4478 for more information.

James C. Scott of James C. Scott and Associates of Bloomfield Hills is landscape architect for the show. Businesses contributing special features to the event include Rollin Landscaping, the

Calculus Construction Co., The Closet Factory, Michigan National Bank and the Sunshing Insulation Co. of Farmington Hills; Bally's Vic Tanny, the Cadillac Window Corp., Ceramic Tile Sales, Dash Mobile Electronics and New Haney's, Encyclopedia Britannica North America, Fireplace and Spa, First Nationwide Bank, Guardian Alarm and Michigan Bell of Southfield; Closet Interiors and Standard Federal Bank of Troy; Evola Music and First Security Savings Bank of Bloomfield Hills; and the Gemini Construction Co. and Fella Window and Door of West Bloomfield.

Attendees will walk through more than two acres of gardens, examine a NASA space station and informational displays, visit the Parade of Homes featuring new homes and a free plan book, view expert demonstrations on gardening, crafts and cooking and see entertainment ranging from dancers to musical groups and singers.

Also, one visitor will win \$20,000 by estimating the correct number of nails in the House of Nails contest. Others can win 75 additional prizes, including a Chevy 1993 Blazer.

DIA orientation set April 3

The Detroit Institute of Arts will have a volunteer orientation 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 3, in Lecture Hall at the DIA, 5200 Woodward in Detroit.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 833-2047 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Volunteer areas of greatest need are gallery service, and gallery information.

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