

CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1993



MARY KLEMIC

Fair keeps shining to silver anniversary

It would have been easy for the women planning the first Westacres Artist Market 25 years ago to feel "snowed under," in more ways than one.

The Westacres community in West Bloomfield was a rural community then. Planners wondered whether established professional artists could be attracted to a community art show outside the established circuit, and whether the area would support it. And the event was postponed when a blizzard dropped 17 inches of snow the March day, shutting down southern Michigan.

"Frankly, we didn't know what we were getting into. We were thirtysomething housewives. We were so rural those days," said Janet Freeman, publicist for the event.

"This was to be a professional show for professional people."

But here vanished the next week, when the rescheduled art show opened. Visitors filled the Westacres clubhouse as 23 artists (drawn from the Rubiner Gallery, Pontiac Center for Creative Arts and Grosse Pointe Art Association) displayed works. A weaver and a metal worker demonstrated their art.

Warm success continued over the years. The event is featured in *Audit*, a national publication listing and rating major art shows throughout the country. The 25th-annual Westacres Artist Market will take place 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Westacres clubhouse in West Bloomfield.

Admission is free. The clubhouse is on the bluffs of Middle Stratts Lake off Commerce Road, east of Union Lake Road and west of Orchard Lake Road.

Watercolors, jewelry, ceramics, fiber, pottery, photography, clothing, wood, paintings, stoneware, baskets, mixed media, clay, batik, glass, prints, raku and children's tents will be featured this year, along with children's activities, sponge painting, a caterer, food concessions and an outdoor cafe.

Artists and craftspeople from Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Franklin, West Bloomfield, Southfield, Farmington Hills and Livonia are among the 75 scheduled to participate.

Four of the artists — Sue and Russ Bolt of Charlevoix (formerly of Pleasant Ridge), Margaret Glinke of Shelby Township and John Glick of Farmington — were in the first show.

"The whole community has been solidly behind it," Freeman said.

"We really have quality artists, that's the key," said Carol Ford, one of the strong advocates of the first show. "I never heard anyone say, 'I don't want to come back.'"

"Some (artists) have gotten friends here. They remember them from year to year."

Ford, an art teacher at Walled Lake Junior High, silk-screened and designed posters for the first show. This year's poster design will reflect that of the first year.

"The artists have told us 'I really enjoyed being in the show. You give us a great lunch, and you take our places (while the artists visit others in the show),' " Ford said.

Graphic display

Energy abounds in Victor Pasmore's abstract aquatints, etchings and lithographs on display to May 1 at the Rubiner Gallery, 7001 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 430A in West Bloomfield (call 626-3111).

Pasmore, born in 1908, lived and worked in London before moving to Malta in the 1970s. He became involved with the "Objective Abstracts" movement in 1932, and started to experiment with pure abstract forms in 1948. In 1954 he was named director of painting at the University of Newcastle, where he established an experimental department of abstract studies.

At the Rubiner Gallery, the works (many of them large) bear colors that seem to move across the surface, sometimes slowly shifting like clouds. They feature vague forms, like biota. With Pasmore's sensitive texturing and shading, the edges fade off into the surface.

The background may be bare, or the shapes may blend into a horizon that fills the surface. "The Cloud" looks like it could erupt into a storm. Small ovals, resembling eggs or eyes, make appearances in some pieces.

A thin, jagged line runs across many of the works, resembling a rough script or an electric current. Other forms seem to be shaping into wide letters.

Thick black lines accent many of the pieces. They could be hieroglyphics, or some sort of international log. One V shape at the bottom of "Soft is the Sound of the Ocean" looks like a conductor with arms outstretched standing before an oceanic orchestra, thin white lines waving in the immense blue background.

See GALLERIES, 4E



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM HENDER

In harmony: Members of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America work on their melodies and moves as choreographer Susan Gleason of Waterford watches. The group will go to Lansing this weekend for district competition.

This group works in harmony

Fine tuning: Nick Pastor of Birmingham (front) and Mary Wilson of Waterford get into the act. In photo at far right, chapter president Tom Uicker of Farmington pauses. The group rehearses weekly for a wide range of concerts and contests. Members come from all over the area, including the communities of Southfield, Troy, Rochester, Rochester Hills and Westland.



BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

One recent Monday evening outside the Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak, spring huddled in a cloak of chilly wind, seemingly reluctant to make a cheery appearance. Traffic

sped along as the rush hour blended into the dinner hour.

Inside the building, the climate was warmer and friendlier. This was the place for the Monday night re-

See SING, 4E



Artists help artists with DIA dance benefit

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Dancers with hearts of gold celebrate the arts Sunday, May 2, when Rose Marie Floyd's Contemporary Civic Ballet Company presents a concert to benefit the Detroit Institute of Arts in the Southfield-Lethrup High School Auditorium, 12 Mile between Southfield Road and Evergreen.

Show time for the "Kaleidoscope of Dance" is 9 p.m. On the program with Floyd's Royal Oak company are special guest artists Lloyd Storey, a renowned tap dancer and director of the tap program at Center for Creative Studies; the Wayne State University Dance Company under artistic director Eva Powers; and Julia Sasso, performer, cho-

rographer and assistant director of Dancemakers, a professional modern dance company from Toronto. Tickets are \$10, senior citizens/students under age 18, \$6. Group rates are available. For tickets call the Rose Marie Floyd Studio of Dance at 546-7484, Myrna Shapero at 851-7408, or Bonnie Doner at 639-3320. "It should be a fun evening.

There's a nice variety ranging from classical ballet to character, modern, jazz and tap," said Rose Marie Floyd of Troy.

"It's a great way to see how the various forms of dance arts relate to one another."

See DANCE, 4E

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 AND FLOWERS

Rita M. Skoczan of Rochester Hills, winner of the 1993 Art and Flowers poster competition, will sign the 1993 festival poster 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward. "Art and Flowers: A Festival of Spring" takes place every other year at the DIA. This year's dates are Thursday-Sunday, April 22-25. Featured events include lectures, tables by interior designers, floral arrangements complementing selected works of art, an afternoon tea and docent tours. The 24 finalist entries in the poster competition are exhibited. For more information, call the Founders Society Development Department at 833-7969.

POETRY READING

The Feigenson/Preston Gallery, 796 N. Woodward in Birmingham, will host a poetry reading featuring John Yau and Chris Tysh 7 p.m. today. Tysh has published several books of poetry and

Art Beat

teaches creative writing and women's studies at Wayne State University. Yau, who lives and works in Manhattan, has written for such magazines as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Artnews*, *Interview* and *Flash Art*. He has taught at major universities, written essays and monographs, and collaborated with a number of contemporary artists, and has books being prepared for publication on Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol.

DREAMS COME TRUE

Have you ever found yourself wishing you could try something new, move in a new direction or polish up an old dream? Audrey Hills will explore how to look into the future and how to realize your dreams 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22, at the Troy Public Library, 510 W. Big Beaver Road, between Crooks and Livernols in the Civic Center complex. Call 524-3638 to make a reservation.

TILE DEMONSTRATION

Doa Manos, 210 W. Sixth in Royal Oak, will celebrate Cinco de Mayo (the fifth of May) with a

demonstration of Mexican tile making by Diana Alva of Pewabic Pottery 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, May 5-6. School groups should call 642-6866 ahead of time to arrange a visit. Cinco de Mayo marks the day of a significant victory in Mexico's struggle for independence in 1862.

BASKETS OF BEAUTY

Scott Shuptrine Furniture offers beautiful spring baskets. These unusual hand creations are by artist Chris Freeman. They pull together all the special elements of spring, such as dried flowers, ribbons, gloves and bonnets, festive beads and trinkets. Freeman will also custom design baskets using customers' own items. For more information, call Scott Shuptrine Furniture at 688-1100. A wide array of Freeman's innovative work is at the Scott Shuptrine store at 977 E. 14 Mile in Troy.

CONFERENCE HOST

Habatat Galleries, 32255 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, is host of "The Motown Tour" portion of the 23rd International Glass Art Society Conference, taking place May 6-9 in Toledo. Members will visit the Dale Chihuly installation at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Center for Creative Studies and then Habatat for a reception serving international cuisine. Habatat is presenting its 21st annual International Glass Invitational to May 8.