



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Creative construction:** Elaine Weber (left) and Debra Badanjek, Machus Bakery decorators, put the finishing touches on this scale model of The Community House in Birmingham. The miniature structure was designed and constructed by three generations of the Dawkins family for events celebrating the facility's 70th anniversary this year.

# This creative project takes the 'cake' Artists

from page 1D

By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to creative construction projects, this takes the cake.

A miniature version of The Community House in Birmingham was assembled recently for the 70th anniversary party for the facility. The "cake," 28 by 42 inches, is frosted with real icing but can't be eaten — its components include boards, plastic foam and glue.

Adorned with candles along its roof, it wowed the audience when it was presented at the party last month. The cake will make appearances at other Community House anniversary celebrations during the year.

The model project involved three generations of a family as well as decorators from the Machus Bakery in Birmingham.

Henry Dawkins, son Dale, an engineer at Chrysler, and grandson Jeff, an architect at Young and Young Architects, worked on the cake's design and construction. It was decorated by Elaine Weber and Debra Badanjek of Machus Bakery.

THE  
COMMUNITY  
HOUSE  
ART  
EVENTS

"We kind of surprised ourselves," Henry Dawkins said. "It was a lot of work."

Jeff Dawkins got the Community House blueprints and drew them to scale. Photos were also used.

The real Community House is at 980 S. Bates. The special smaller structure shows the front of the house on both sides, so viewers can see it from any position.

The windows are made of acetate, and plastic bushes and trees adorn the exterior. Bricks and shingles are depicted in the frosting. The decorating alone took three days.

**East meets Park West**  
The paintings, sculptures and serigraphs of Jiang Tiefeng, mainland China's leading contemporary artist, bring to mind the intricate patterns and jewel tones of cloisonne. His art works are on display for about three weeks at Park West Gallery, 29469 Northwest Highway in Southfield (call 354-2343).

The artist uses red, yellow and other primary colors to create energy, both in miniature and large scale paintings. At the same time, ethereal feelings are conveyed.

Animals, plants and feminine figures are composed of sections and lines that overlap and merge in the works. In different paintings, zebras and flowers, horses and a goddess figure, cats and a woman playing a flute, a panda and an iris overlap. A longer look can reveal other shapes and faces in the lines that dance across the surface.

Even a comparatively simple subject, a vase of flowers, is expressed through intricate lines and patterns.

**Silky way**

George Gavric would call an exhibit of his works the "Silky Way," he said with a smile at a private showing of his art Sunday afternoon at a Birmingham residence.

The Bosnian artist (call 331-2388) brought with him a technique of painting on silk when he immigrated to the United States in 1982. He combines different media and techniques, including airbrushing and pastel.

Gavric's art seems to shimmer from within. Flowers, landscapes and cosmic scenes of stars and galaxies are among his subjects, presented with deep colors and flowing shapes. One work depicts Bosnia, a falling star dropping from the sky in despair toward a village outlined in fire. Landscapes show a gentle beauty, brightly colored leaves adorning trees.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at 644-1100, Ext. 246.

## Oriental art group planning presentation, travel

The Michigan Oriental Art Society has scheduled meetings of special interest for May and June. Hiroko Harada, a visiting scholar/artist from Aichi University in Japan, and Bonnie Abiko of Oakland University will give a

presentation on Harada's specialty, the Japanese textile design technique of shibori, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23, at the Troy Public Library.

The library is at Big Beaver Road and I-76. The meeting, open

to the public, includes a short social time with refreshments. Admission is free.

Harada will also give an informal exhibit and presentation on shibori 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27, at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, Lone Pine Road and Telegraph. This event isn't connected with the MOAS.

The MOAS plans a visit to the

Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto Saturday-Sunday, June 26-27. Reservations should be made immediately for this trip. Charges for members are \$119 per person for single occupancy, and \$133 for double occupancy (two people). Non-members add \$10 to either charge. For more information, call Seymour Kavasky at 688-6449.

Harada is a preservationist as well as a skilled shibori artist herself. She will show and explain both antique fabrics and examples of her own work at the MOAS meeting.

Shibori is a highly refined form of tie-dye technique. Dyers in the old state of Mikawa, now a part of Aichi Prefecture, were renowned throughout the Edo Period for the beautiful kimono they produced

using this art. Harada, a native of this area, has devoted her career to the preservation of historic examples and the development of her own skills.

The Royal Ontario Museum is well known for the extent and high quality of its Asian — especially Chinese — collection, and is currently featuring a traveling exhibit of Thai textiles. The June trip will allow a little time to visit nearby antique shops and other Toronto attractions.

This trip includes the visit to the museum, Saturday night at the Park Plaza Hotel, a short walk from the museum, and Sunday morning breakfast. Participants are responsible for transportation to Toronto and all other meals.

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