

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Art

from page 8A

"prettiest" malls in the metro Detroit area. But unlike Laurel Park Place, the Somerset Collection has several works of art.

Bronze statues

"Rising Day" and "Descending Night" stand at either end of the mall, where nearby benches and greenery create a feeling of respite for the shopper. The 6-foot-tall bronze statues were created by Adolph Alexander Wehman in 1914 and acquired by Somerset partner Maurice Cohen from the Hirsch & Adler Galleries in New York.

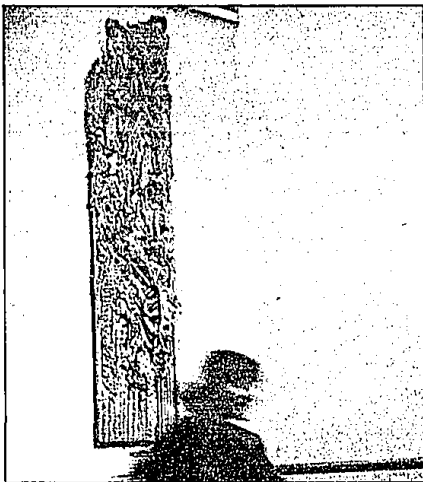
The pair of bronzes were cast from the sculptor's working models (now destroyed), which were commissioned to commemorate the opening of the Panama Canal and the joining of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. They were first seen in plaster at the World's Fair of the time in San Francisco.

Works of art are not exclusive to "new" malls. The Westland Center, built in 1965, has several objects d'art: two fountains, two sculptures and a very old giant rubber tree.

"Shoppers tell us the sound of water from our fountains is relaxing," said Claudia Frederick, Westland Mall's marketing director. "The huge rubber tree in front of Hudson's is a conversation piece. The sculpture in front of Penney's, 'Framed Figures,' represents a crowd. It was created by Fritz Koenig, and has been here since the mall opened."

A white goose welcomes shoppers to the mall's Hudson's store. "The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg" was created by Samuel Cashwan.

At the Livonia Mall, several pieces of art are provided for shoppers. There are four art deco chandeliers dating back to the early 1900s at Crowleys and Wonderland Mall in Livonia.



JOHN STORMZANO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Yet untitled: The five-foot high sculpture by Troy resident and former Cranbrook student and teacher Glen Michaels, greets shoppers on their way to the second floor of the Jacobson's store in downtown Birmingham.

made of brass and Tiffany-type glass.

The Crowley fountain "Vin Marie" was cast in bronze by Morris Brose, a Detroit sculptor. It was installed in 1964 to depict "sea life."

In the east court, "A World of Hands," a metal sculpture by Frank Hayden, attempts to capture global harmony.

If pop art is more appealing, several malls have Mr. Gumball, a giant, colorful dispensing display where 25 cents gets you a big gumball. Mr. Gumball is manufactured in Phoenix, Ariz. There is a Mr. Gumball at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield and Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

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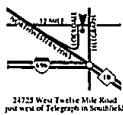
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Shops from page 8A

"There are unique, original gift items at the Museum Shops," she said. "And it's fun to browse, like you're visiting a miniumuseum. I like the stationery items because I'm a letter writer."

Financial support for the arts is the goal of the satellite stores, but building an awareness of the museum and an appreciation for art is also a priority, according to Darby.

In May the stores sold tickets

for a bus shuttle service between the shopping centers and the art museum in downtown Detroit. The program has ended for June but is under consideration for future months. The ticket price included a docent tour and admission to special exhibits.

For more information about the trial shuttle program or the shops call the DIA Museum Stores at Somerset Collection, 649-2222 or Twelve Oaks Mall, 380-8050.

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