

# CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1993

GARDENING



MARTY FIGLEY

## Give clematis support for healthy blooms

One of the most spectacular flowering vines, and a favorite of many people, is the clematis.

The name comes from the Greek word "klimax," "klimax" was the Greek name for a vine with slender branches. In early days, the roots were dried and used as a shampoo. American Indians used the bark to treat fevers.

Joan Denton of Birmingham loves her clematis plants. She advises that one of the most important things in order to grow them successfully is to dig a big, generous hole, at least 12 to 15 inches deep and wide. Space the plants 24 inches apart to give them plenty of room to grow; keep them 18 inches away from the supporting structure.

Mix plenty of Canadian peat into the moist soil when planting; water well. If it hasn't rained, Denton waters every other day; when there's sun and no rain, every day. She fertilizes at least once every six weeks with a water soluble 15-30-15 formula by using a hose-end sprayer.

Skip Forrest of Harold Thomas Nursery in Livonia concurs with Denton: these plants like moist and cool, but not soggy, soil. Some clematis like alkaline soil; he advises to read the labels.

Forrest recommends the following plants for first-time clematis growers: for late spring to summer bloom, "Beauty of Worcester," violet blue; summer bloom, "Jackmanii," purple; late summer, "Vitalba (Old Man's Beard)," greenish white. "Henry," with white blooms, will flower twice each season. Spring blooms need to be cut off Henry! so that it will have energy to re-bloom in fall.

### Control sunlight

"The trick to clematis is the roots should be without the sun, but the blooms need to be towards the sun," Denton said. "The reason I love clematis is because you can plant all kinds of other things around them to shade the bottom." She uses evergreen shrubs, roses and other foliage plants. She likes annuals for color, such as pansies — "cause I love their faces" — and has found that impatiens do well in an area that receives only afternoon sun and is shady the rest of the day.

A large Jackmanii is supported by a lamppost beside the driveway and is splendid with large, saucer-size (seven- to nine-inch) deep purple blooms. Beside the front porch is another Jackmanii with smaller blooms, which echo the same color.

New this year is a Bees Jubilee with a lavender flower brushed with purple stripes and a yellow center. Nearby is Ville de Lyon, a later summer bloomer in a soft fuchsia color.

In the rear of the house, facing east, another large Jackmanii has blooms that will continue until late September. It has grown to the top of the 10-foot trellis. By the end of summer, it will have climbed up the twine supports that Denton's husband, Ron, has affixed to the roof gutter.

Nearly is the hard-to-grow Nelly Mosher, with light green foliage. Its bloom will be soft-white with lavender stripes.

Some authorities advise that all newly planted clematis should be pruned to about six inches, but Denton lets the vines stay as they are for the first two or three years until they are well established.

See CLEMATIS, 7D



MARTY FIGLEY

Climbing to top: Joan Denton of Birmingham enjoys caring for her clematis plants. This Jackmanii twines around the lightpost beside the driveway.

## Culture speaks across centuries

■ A display at Donna Jacobs Gallery Ltd. in Birmingham features objects that show the ancient Egyptians' concern with the afterlife and close relationship with the gods.

By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

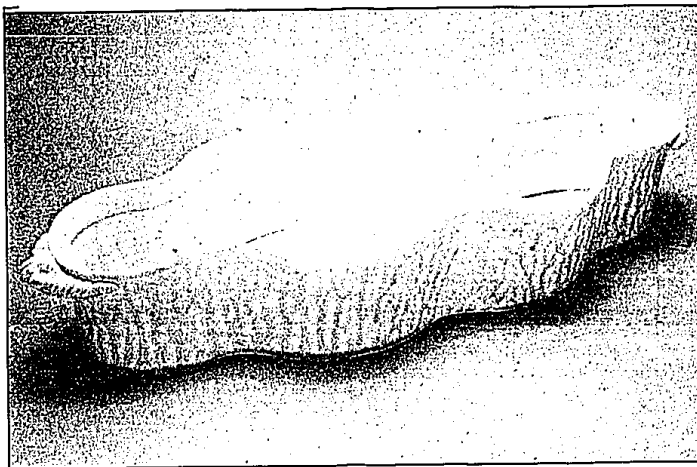
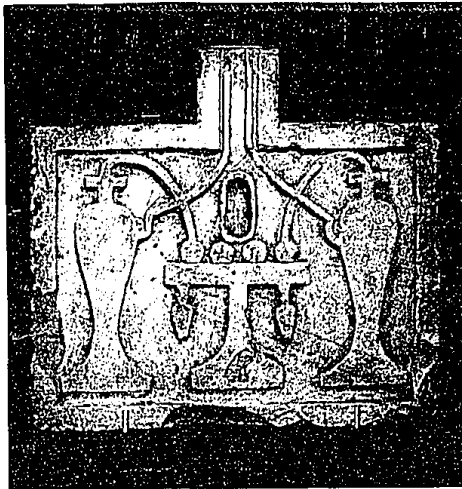
The *Allure of Egypt: Fine Antiquities from the Land of the Nile*, at Donna Jacobs Gallery Ltd. in Birmingham through Aug. 14, presents a tantalizing glimpse into an ancient culture. Through pieces ranging from tiny amulets, many of them smaller than a half dollar, to bigger carvings and cloth works, the exhibit traces 3,000 years of Egyptian art, from the Predynastic Period through the influence of Christianity and Islam. The influence

of other civilizations led to a new appreciation for natural representation. Static, stylized forms became more relaxed.

Most widely represented in the display at 574 N. Woodward are objects that show the ancient Egyptians' concern with the afterlife and close relationship with the gods. Items include stelae, limestone slabs inscribed with hieroglyphics; stiffened linen cartonnages, which were coverings for mummies; and a wooden boat complete with oarsmen, transporting the dead.

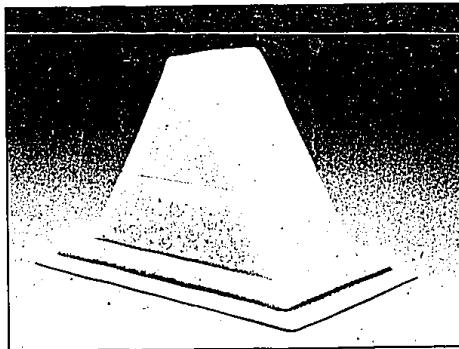
See EGYPT, 4D

Out of the past: This limestone offering table, circa 1085 to 332 B.C., is one of the ancient Egyptian items exhibited at Donna Jacobs Gallery Ltd. in Birmingham.



Fluid form: This serving dish by Elizabeth Lurie of Farmington Hills shows the subtle, elegant line of her work. Lurie's porcelain works are featured in the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair this week.

■ It's time for a midsummer extravaganza: the art fairs in Ann Arbor. One thousand artists are displaying cutting edge and traditional works in a variety of media. Look on Page 4D for more information, including times for scheduled events.



Elegant line: Lurie's concerns are primarily functional, but she also creates sculpture.

## Nature helps form porcelain

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
SPECIAL WRITER

Elizabeth Lurie's handcrafted porcelain echoes colors and forms found in nature. From the blue-green of a robin's egg to the white capped waves of the Great Lakes, Lurie's palette and fluid line whisper an exquisite yet pure beauty.

The Farmington Hills ceramist brings her wheel-thrown and hand-built porcelain to Booth 66 at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, July 21-24.

"I wanted them to be subtle," Lurie said. "It's the elegant line I'm after, the feeling you get from looking at a certain form. Beauty is my goal. It's what I've always pursued."

Lurie has worked in clay 23 years. Although the Michigan Potter's Association president also creates sculpture, her concerns remain primarily functional.

### Delicate touch

Porcelain tumblers with lyrical extensions reminiscent of ram's horns, teapots and bowls crafted in pumpkin-like forms, newly created large scale serving dishes handled by shells leave the viewer awestruck by their inherent sculptural quality, luminosity and delicate detailing. "Porcelain lends itself to fine detail. There's a quality of light about porcelain."

Lurie became interested in clay on a visit to Pewabic Pottery in Detroit in the late 1960s. She proceeded to study there from 1971 to 1974.

Originally she had earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree in English from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She was teaching high school students in Detroit when the irresistible call of clay beckoned.

"This wasn't something I was going to pick up and set down. Pewabic offered a very intense program. In fact we built the first salt kiln in the area. It was exciting being a part of the Pewabic experience."

See ARTIST, 4D

Artobeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: *Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling 644-1314.

For information and reviews of musical performances, turn to the Entertainment section.

### ■ CULTURAL KUDOS

The City of Southfield's Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts Division is the recipient of the Great Lakes Regional Arts and Humanities Award for 1993. Marlowe Belanger, Cultural Arts manager, received a plaque in Wayne, Ind., Friday as a commemoration of this honor.

The division won the award for its diverse programs, presenting artists and performers to the public in many different locations, creating alternative uses for a variety of structures. The pro-

## Art Beat

grams were morning brunches, afternoon and evening Concerts in the Garden at hotels and businesses, World Travel and Adventure films at the Southfield City Council chambers, children's concerts Saturday afternoons at the Southfield Civic Center and author's lecture lunches at the historic Burg site.

### ■ GRAND SUPPORT

Four Rochester businesses — the Avon Printing Co., the Ballian Eye Center, Billman & Upton and First of America Bank's Rochester Community Group (which was the first corporate sponsor to contribute this year) — are sponsoring the seventh annual Celebrate Michigan Artists exhibit

at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts. The show will be Aug. 13 to Sept. 24 at the PCCA, 407 Pine in Rochester. It is juried by Birmingham gallery owner George N'Nandi. A gala opening reception is scheduled 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, in the PCCA's Main Gallery. The public may attend. Winning artists will receive their awards and corporate sponsors will be given signed, framed posters in appreciation of their support.

Each corporate sponsor makes a \$1,000 contribution to the fine art competition. The Arts Foundation of Michigan provides a \$1,000 grant for the first place winner.

Corporate sponsorship underwrites the show's price structure and the cost of reproducing the first prize entry as a fine art poster. Sales of posters provide important program dollars for the center.

Michigan Bell donated \$500 to this year's exhibit for printing the call for entries, invitation and catalog.