

# Galleries from page 1D

human figures and animals, invite smiles as they strike poses. Fish pools promise an artistic touch for any garden.

The gallery occasionally presents special exhibits, such as a recent show of glass sculpture by Harvard Reflections.

## Michigan artist

Paintings by Michigan artist Gary Glese are displayed through August at Connoisseur Galleries, 1858 E. Maple, one block west of John R in Troy (528-8410).

Many of Glese's vibrant, colorful works have a maritime theme. Spraying waves dance over boats. A closeup of a conch shell on a beach shows the shell's graceful lines. Structures stand along waterfronts with gentle dignity. Among his other works is one with sheet music, a keyboard and a brass instrument arranged like a collage.

## Summer show

The Susanne Hilberry Gallery, 655 S. Woodward in Birmingham (642-3250), contains a garden of artistry with its Summer Sculpture Exhibition. The exhibit, continuing through Aug. 21, features works by seven different contemporary artists.

Glazed steel and chrome twist fluidly in pieces by John Chamberlain that rest on the floor or a shelf, or hang from the wall like a multicolored waterfall. Claes Oldenburg's "Clarinet Bridge" is softer, resembling a large, arching clarinet. Judy Pfaff arranges such materials as wire, cans and coil into an airy structure. Keith Sonnier combines aluminum and glass with neon in flowing lines.

More stark and spare are works

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BY MARGE ALPERN  
SPECIAL WRITER

"Form before flowers" is a basic principle of good landscape design.

With that in mind, amateur gardeners have recognized the

**■ GARDENING**  
enormous contribution that ornamental grasses can make to garden structure.

Grasses can be used as a single specimen or massed as a backdrop. Their somnolent growth during the summer season changes the scale of the landscape quite dramatically as the tall grasses offer a graceful silhouette. Even the slightest breeze brings movement and a sense of freedom to the formal landscape in which they are now being widely used.

## Cutting remarks

The tall grasses that reach up to 5 or 6 feet can be left to dry, thereby adding interest to the winter scene, and then cut back to about 6 inches in the spring.

I enjoy cutting some of the grasses in the fall when they are still green. Placed in a tall vase without water, they soon begin to curl and twist into delightful spirals, creating a beautiful indoor winter arrangement. The flowering plumes are also attractive.

by Roni Horn, Donald Judd and Joel Shapiro. Horn pairs two stainless and copper disks — one with halves forming a circle, one with halves facing away from each other. Judd offers a red and black painted aluminum box for viewing from different angles, allowing shadows and small compartments to add subtle complexities. One of Shapiro's works is tall and slender, with a red and black painted aluminum box for viewing from different angles, allowing shadows and small compartments to add subtle complexities. One of Shapiro's works is tall and slender, with a red and black painted aluminum box for viewing from different angles, allowing shadows and small compartments to add subtle complexities.

## Mixed media

Collages and mixed media paintings by Rochester artist Susan Kell are featured at the Atrium Gallery, 109 N. Center in Northville (349-4131).

Kell's abstract works use deep colors that seem to have come from the earth like gemstones. Twigs accent some of her pieces.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at 910-2569. Her fax number is 644-1314.

# Grasses can add to gardens

Proper care of the short grasses requires more careful pruning. Kim Francis, who is certified by the Michigan Nursery Landscape Association and works at Bordin's in Rochester, suggests that the low grasses under approximately 1 foot should be pruned more judiciously in early spring just as new growth begins.

Pruning to about 4 to 6 inches, just enough to clean up the plant, is recommended. It is better to prune again a little later rather than to overdo it in the beginning. If these low grasses are not pruned at all, eventually the plant will decline.

## Location, location

In the shade garden, the low variegated grasses or sedges add new interest to the hostas and ferns with which we are all too familiar. But the tall grasses generally are more successfully grown in the sun or semi-shade.

The concept of intensive gardening has been proven to be effective in the home vegetable garden, and now we see it being employed in the flower garden.

In a miniature woodland, a long border garden or even the corner of a small home lot, a dense planting of herbaceous plants has been found to be very satisfying. Here the principle, form before flower, does not apply.

The Perennial Plant Association claimed.

The luxurious deep green foliage came up early in a neat clump that has now produced wonderful clusters of deep blue spikes. This plant is very easy to grow in the mixed sunny border, and it is said to be totally hardy in our zone, zone 5.

We are mingling old-fashioned flowers with the newest hybrids, bulbs, perennials and self-sewing annuals, creating what has been sarcastically called "controlled untidiness."

A small tree or shrub could be placed in this informal, densely planted space, or it may be interrupted by a discreet path or a wooden fence that can serve as an interesting background for a rambling rose and also an unobtrusive focal point.

I like this kind of informal, personalized garden. I believe it encourages a more playful, experimental approach to gardening. It allows us to try out new plants, combine an unlikely variety of colors, heights and textures.

The results of this free-style gardening can be very satisfying, more diverse, less rigid and almost always quite beautiful.

## New plants

I am very enthusiastic about two new plants that were offered this spring.

Veronica "Sunny Border Blue," the Plant of the Year, 1993, turned out to be everything that

Marge Alpern is a Birmingham-based freelance writer and avid gardener.

# DIA sets volunteer training

Gallery service volunteers are needed to greet and assist visitors in the museum galleries of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

No special qualifications or background are required. A training session will take place 10 a.m.

to noon Saturday, Aug. 14, in the Holly Room of the DIA, 5200 Woodward.

For more information, call 833-0247 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

# Entries sought for Our Town exhibit

Artists across the state are invited to submit their work for jurying for the seventh annual Our Town Art Exhibition and Sale, scheduled for Oct. 20-24 at the Community House in Birmingham.

Artists who haven't already received a call for an entry form can ask for one by calling. The Community House at 644-8832. They can also write to the center at 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, 48009.

Last year, 356 works of art from 237 Michigan artists were selected from about 1,000 entries. Sixty-two of these works were bought

by some of the 3,000 people who attended the four-day exhibition, Sunday, Oct. 24, \$10,000 in prizes will be given away during an artists' award ceremony.

Artists may submit their interpretations of "Our Town," any hometown and its meaning to them. Works may pertain to but aren't limited to the following subjects: Michigan landmarks; architecture/city; nature/landscape; people/portraits and still life. Art work may be two- or three-dimensional, prepared in any medium, ready for presentation and must be new to Our

Town exhibitions.

Allen Rubiner will be the 1993 Our Town juror. He is a nationally recognized artist and instructor and has his work displayed in many municipal, corporate and private collections throughout the country.

The exhibition and sale opens with gala benefit Wednesday, Oct. 20. It's open to the public Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 21-24. There isn't an admission fee.

All works of art must be marked for sale. The artists receive 65 percent of the selling cost, with the rest benefiting the

Community House. Southfield-based Franklin Bank sponsors this year's event.

The Community House is a not-for-profit center that welcomes people of all ages, races and creeds. It provides educational, social and cultural programs, group travel, child care, employment assistance, meeting space and banquet and catering services. The Community House receives no tax dollars or United Way funding. It depends upon private donations for its community services and capital improvements.

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