

# CREATIVE LIVING

D

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1993



MARY KLEMIC

## Poet spreads word about art freedom

Usually, galleries are visited for the visual images within. Two- and three-dimensional works are displayed for their power and beauty.

But The Artists' Gallery, 30905 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, recently exhibited the power and beauty of the written word, and showed Michigan has a special atmosphere in which works of art are created.

The event was a program featuring readings by Harold Norris, a widely recognized poet and author. He teaches constitutional law at the Detroit College of Law.

Thirty years ago, Norris was a delegate to the convention that rewrote Michigan's Constitution. He wrote the clause that guarantees the artist freedom of expression. The artist's constitution is the only one in the world with such a clause.

"I've always thought the right to listen is more important than the right to speak," said Norris, 76.

Norris added the words "express" and "views" in Article 1, Section 5, so that it reads: "Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such rights; and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press."

The word "views" replaced the word "sentiments." This was effective Jan. 1, 1964.

The purpose of the convention wasn't just to reaffirm traditional protection, but to expand the protection to more ways of communication. This meant including new art forms, such as electronic art.

"There is more to art than speaking, writing and publishing."

What was to be protected was the right of everyone to view the views of everyone. It's the essence of being human that you are free to express views and free to perceive what is expressed by other people.

"If artists are to have freedom that must be expressed by artists.

"In art there is systematic ambiguity. You have the right, the legality to assert yourself in the way you wish. The greater the diversity of expression the greater the... approximation of truth."

To Norris, poetry is public and should be displayed. It should engage the public's consciousness as graphic arts do. Showing poetry is a way to make it part of people's experience, maybe motivating them to write their own.

News reporters including the New York Times and the Detroit Free Press used to feature poetry on their editorial pages.

Norris was touched that for the event at The Artists' Gallery, excerpts from his poetry were arranged alongside some art works. He had submitted his poems to art galleries to have them displayed, only to be told "Well, it just isn't done."

Norris' poetry has drawn praise from an esteemed circle, including Archibald MacLeish, Theodore White and Harriette Simpson Arnow. His poem "The Liberty Bell" is displayed in Philadelphia at the site of the Liberty Bell and in the state Capitol in Lansing. That work was one of those Norris read from his book, "An American Mural."

The poem's meter is like that of a ringing bell. It is meant to encourage understanding of the Bill of Rights:

"Is there a sound effect, / You can detect in / Your right to speak / Your right to see, / Your right to read / Your right to lead, / Your right to choose / Your right to prove, / Your right to fight / Your right to strike, / Your right to pray / Your right to play, / Your right to doubt, shout, know, grow, propose, oppose, elect, reject, respect, protect, / Your right to in your own way find / Your own inscrutable mind."

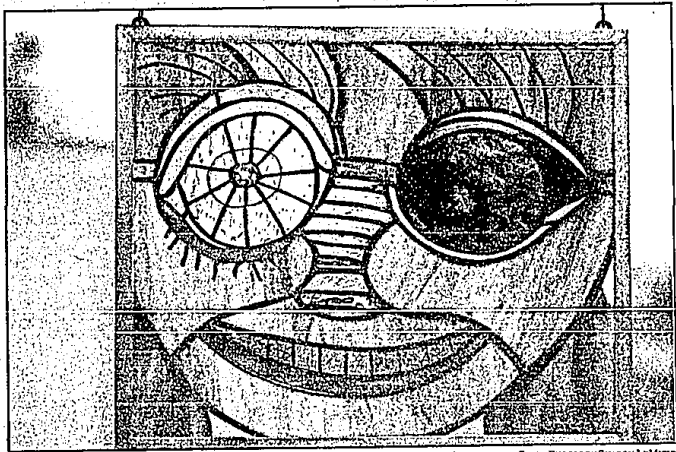
Subjects of other poems in the book include Ben Franklin, Eleanor Roosevelt, sports, art, learning, war and peace and our times. "Commencement: To the Class of '76" is a reminder that a lasting Constitution depends on each of us:

See CITYSCAPES, 5E

## LOOKING AHEAD

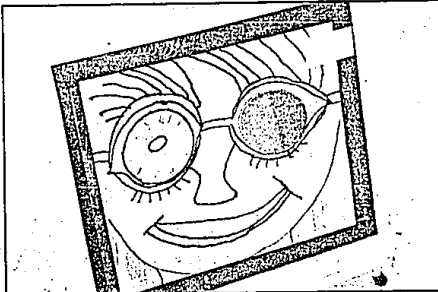
What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- A visit with an artist at a West Bloomfield gallery.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMIEUX

**Glittering art:** The work at right by Kristi Dicks, a first grader at Glengary Elementary School in Walled Lake, inspired the above stained-glass work by Marie Snell of Oak Park. The pieces are among those in "A New Way of Looking," a current display at The Artists Gallery in Farmington Hills. For the show, students from five school districts made works of art, which gallery artists used as the basis for other works.



## Exhibit is young at art

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

A group of gallery artists went to school to find inspiration for a special exhibit. It is special in that kindergarten and grade school students in the Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Walled Lake Consolidated districts made works of art for the co-op gal-

lery. Gallery artists then made their own pieces, inspired by those of the students. Now the art works by adults and youngsters are arranged side by side for the display.

"We were just amazed when this

See EXHIBIT, 3E

**Water wonder:** Barbara Nigro of Bloomfield Hills made adaptations of works by Hilary Moss (below, left) and Elad Bardicef, both third graders at Hillel Day in Farmington Hills.



**Art in bloom:** Henryka Olbrot of Farmington Hills made the top and middle paintings inspired by Jamie Pepple (left), a first grader at Keith School in Commerce Township; Karlee Clegg of Wixom in Walled Lake; and Anna Ashley, a second grader at Hickory Woods in Novi.

Artbeat 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.

## BOOK TALK

The Senior Women's Club meeting 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, at The Community House in Birmingham, will feature Sarah Ormond, head of the adult reading department at Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library. Ormond will speak about the upcoming "Writers Live at the Library" series this fall. The nationally acclaimed program, sponsored by the American Library Association and the Reader's Digest Foundation,

## Art Beat

will include authors Geoffrey and Tobias Wolf. For more information about the meeting, call 644-5882.

## HARP HONORS

Kristen Agresta of Bloomfield Hills recently won first prize in the American Harp Society Young Professional Performance Competition at the University of Michigan. Participants from around the country competed for the top prize, which recognizes rising talent in the new genera-

## Author is sew artistic

■ Birmingham resident Carolyn Vosburg Hall's latest book has a soft touch. The book, "Pictorial Quilts," explains how to make fantastic fabric works of art.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER



If you'd like to try to create special pictorial art but are hesitating, here's a comforting — or rather, comforting — thought: A new book is out that shows and tells how to stitch an art quilt by hand or machine.

The book, "Pictorial Quilts," is the latest by Carolyn Vosburg Hall of Birmingham. She will autograph copies at the grand opening of Leeward's 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at 13 Mile and Southfield Road.

Several projects from the book will be displayed at the arts and crafts store, Borders Book Store, also at 13 Mile and Southfield Road, carries "Pictorial Quilts" too.

"I'm saying that it's for quilters who want to know about art and artists who want to know about quilting," said Hall, who has written eight other books.

"Pictorial Quilts" describes how to find ideas and design a quilt; presents such subjects as embroidery, applique, equipment, the workshop and transferring images to fabric and explores lines, shapes, colors and textures. Children are encouraged to get into the act.

Each of the nine chapters includes an illustrated project. Works by professional fiber artists are featured.

The book displays quilts that are so beautiful and powerful it is a pleasure just to look at them.

Quality quilts

Among the quilts are those by Hall featuring pictures of traditional

See QUILTS, 3E

## Charm opens doors

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

It's a tour with style. The Downtown Living Tour in Birmingham will present a variety of residential style, featuring houses with special stories and charm.

The tour, sponsored by The Community House, will take place 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21. Tickets are \$20 each, which includes a Harvest Tea 1:30-4 p.m. at The Community House.

To order tickets, send a check to The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009. The check should be payable to The Community House. Be sure to include your name and address and to mark your check "House Tour." Early purchase of tickets is recommended, as the tour is expected to sell out again this year.

To charge tickets, or for more information, call The Community House at 644-6882.

This is the sixth Downtown Living Tour. The eight houses are in the

See TOUR, 6E

tion of harp soloists. The competition was divided into two rounds that included a chamber piece for harp and string quartet demanding extreme technical skill and the ability to work closely with other musicians. Agresta also received the Prix Reale for the best performance of "Un Sosoprio" by Franz Liszt.

Agresta has won many other awards. She has performed on national TV, on Michigan and Indiana public TV and extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Israel. At age 15, she was featured in a full concert tour of the British Isles and performed in recital at the 1991 World Harp Congress in Paris. Agresta is currently under concert management with Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates and is actively pursuing a solo career.