

CREATIVE LIVING

D

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1993

PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

Cranbrook treasures include its president

Of all the treasures at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, one of the finest can't be put on a pedestal or surrounded by a frame.

For one thing, this treasure won't stand still. This treasure is a study in perpetual motion and devotion, energetically singing the praises and stretching the potential of Cranbrook, that very special institution that makes history as well as creates and showcases art.

This is Roy Slade, academy president and director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum. He recently announced his decision to resign as president, to spend more time painting and writing at Harsen's Island.



Slade

Slade's tenure won't end for some time, as he will be as active as ever during the transition period while another president is named. Upcoming exhibits at Cranbrook, such as a show by Yoko Ono, and the Saarinen House project are among the items with which Slade will continue to be involved.

Lillian Bauder, Cranbrook Educational Community president, said she and Slade talked about the possibility of his resignation for months. "I appreciate very much his letting me and Cranbrook know about his desire to leave now so that we can have an orderly transition," she said. "The grace and good form (in staying on for as long as two years) is highly unusual. This is bittersweet. I've been here 10 1/2 years and we have developed a close relationship. We have been through so many things together at Cranbrook."

"He was such a unique individual. Cranbrook is Roy," said associate curator David D.J. Rau. "Roy's had a tenure here at Cranbrook that's really second to none," said Greg Wittkopp, curator of collections.

When Slade came to Cranbrook "it really was a sleeping giant," Wittkopp said. With integrity and exuberance, Slade pushes the potential of staff, students and the institution itself. His faculty appointments, exhibits and projects put his belief in the academy into action. He shares his contagious enthusiasm and passion for the art academy and museum around the world.

Cranbrook received the Governor's Arts Organization Award in 1988. Two years ago, plans for a new studio complex at the art academy were announced as part of a major expansion and renovation of the Cranbrook Educational Community.

Slade started the restoration and refurbishing of the 63-year-old Saarinen House on campus. The house, where presidents of the academy and their families lived, will be preserved as a museum. "It's really a remarkable tenure," Wittkopp said.

Bauder will work with a trustee search committee, talking with Cranbrook faculty, staff, students, trustees and governors, to find candidates for the post.

"He wants to make sure the transition is very smooth," Wittkopp said. "He will leave (the new president) a very well operated and internationally known academy, a nationally and internationally known lecturer, exhibition judge and painter. Among his many prestigious positions is that of chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts Museum Program Overview Panel.

Slade, born in Wales in 1933, earned degrees at the Cardiff College of Art and University of Wales. He came to the United States in 1967 as professor in painting at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. Slade assumed the position of dean there in 1970, serving as director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art 1972-77.

He was appointed to the Cranbrook post in 1977 after an intensive two-year search that included reviewing more than 200 candidates from around the world.

See GALLERIES, 5E

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- A meeting with Yoko Ono before the opening of her exhibit at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills.
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



BY GLEN GRAVER PHOTOGRAPHERS

Tender hand: Custom design touches were the answer for this formerly dark den. Interior designer Mario Kocaj redesigned the entire room — from the cabinets to the wallcoverings to the end tables and the oversize his-and-her chenille chairs.

Contemporary indeed can be stylish

LOOKS FOR LIVING

Mixing but not always matching — that's what this Looks for Living story and Creative Choices, our home furnishings supplement inside today's editions, are all about.

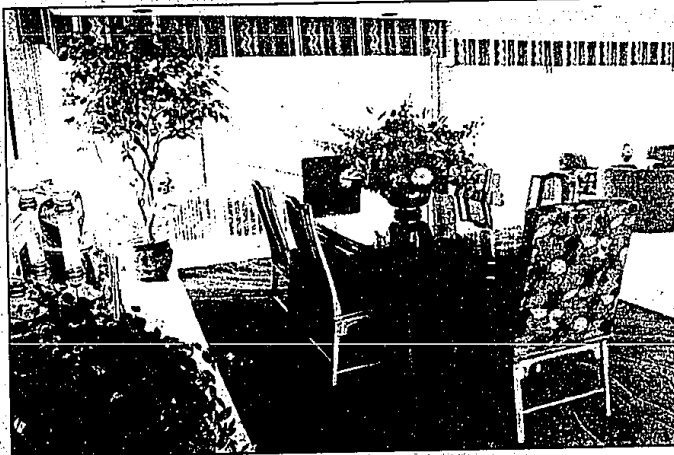
By SUSAN TAUBER
SPECIAL WRITER

Here's a house in Bloomfield Hills that illustrates how warm and inviting a high style contemporary interior can be.

The decor inside the house mirrors the horizontal masonry exterior, softened with dozens of colorful roses and annuals.

Mario Kocaj, interior designer with Hudson's at Northland in Southfield, spent three years working with the couple who lives in the nine-year-old house. Together they transformed it from a stark contemporary to a stunning classic. They

See CONTEMPORARY, 2E



Changing face: Texture and rich jewel tones transform this large dining room into a dramatic yet inviting area. The flowing design in the custom rug leads the eye to the classic silk flower arrangement made by interior designer Mario Kocaj.

Photo exhibition takes magical tour of Italy

By MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Balthazar Korab's scenes of Italy now exhibited at the Eton Gallery in Birmingham are works of magic.

These are photographic tapestries, combining light, color and shades instead of fabric and thread. The photos of landscapes and portraits are displayed through October at the gal-

lery, 151 N. Eton. It is Korab's first show in the area since 1985.

"It's a magic land," said Korab, a Troy resident.

Korab was trained as an architect, and is considered America's premier architectural photographer. He is fascinated by the relationship between man and the environment.

"I just have this great passion for

manmade environments. Just about everything (in Italy) is manmade because people have lived there for 4,000 years."

The photos were taken while Korab lived in Italy for "two lovely years," 1966-68. They have a romantic quality. Most of them are from Tuscany and Florence ("That's the heart of Italy, the best of Italy"). Some of the

scenes don't exist any more.

The landscapes presented in the exhibit are gently sculpted, sometimes looking like rows of velvet, sometimes bearing pure mountain ranges. Some rows of land at a farm meander from side to side, a tree at the bottom of the photo like a thumb

See ITALY, 5E

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 825 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling 844-1314.

ON TV

Luda Tcherniak, owner of the Luda Art Gallery, 103 B E. Fourth in Rochester, will be interviewed 8:50 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, on WTVS-TV Channel 56. Tcherniak was featured in a Creative Living story last month.

TOYING WITH AFFECTION

What one person may consider a castoff, another may consider a treasure. For those seeking such treasures, the Botsford Inn Toy show is the

Art Beat

place to be. The show will take place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Eight Mile and Grand River in Farmington. Admission is \$2.

The event will feature 40 dealers from Michigan and Ohio. Items featured will be tin toys, trains, mechanical banks, cast-iron toys, dealer promotional toys, Dinky toys, Tootsie toys and western toys.

BROADCAST NEWS

Birmingham resident Gregg Bloomfield, acting managing director of Meadow Brook Theatre,

will be the guest host on "Guess Who's Playing the Classics?" 9-10 p.m. today on WQRS-FM 105.

OPEN DOORS

Pen and brush work merge with the collaboration of Union Lake artists Marcia Clement and Joann Falk, who announce the opening of their new Art and Calligraphy Studios, 8156 Cooley Lake Road in the Village Square Plaza near Union Lake Road.

Clement and Falk offer a variety of art classes, including drawing, painting, calligraphy and bookbinding. Handmade cards, original art work, supplies and creative accessories are available. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, or by appointment. For information or a schedule of classes, call 360-6429.