

CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1993

PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

Mary Fisher's art has positive feeling

Mary Fisher's handmade paper works glow with more than bright colors. A warm, positive feeling is generated by the large pieces, which are exhibited through Saturday at the O.K. Harris/David Klein Gallery, 430 N. Woodward in Birmingham (call 433-3700). The artist has this warmth when she works.

"I feel that way about my work," Fisher said at a reception Sept. 21 at the gallery. "I love flowers. They're living, they're part of life. I feel that when I work. I'm glad that it translates."

Some of the proceeds from sales at the gallery will go to Family AIDS Network. This is the foundation Fisher started last year after going public with the information that through her husband she was infected with the HIV virus, which often is a precursor of AIDS. Family AIDS Network works in increasing community awareness of HIV/AIDS, caregiver support and pioneer research grants. In addition, Fisher travels around the country and the world speaking out for thoughtful policies and AIDS awareness and compassion.

Fisher works from sketches and real flowers. In her works, such subjects as sunflowers, ivy, poppies and fruit are like badges of optimism. Leaves and vines spray out — they could be fireworks or fountains of celebration, or arms that welcome the viewer. The sweet and simple titles — "Beautiful Flowers," "Larger Than Life," "The Sun Will Shine," for example — come from Fisher's children, who are 3 and 5 years old.

"I find inspiration from music, from my children, from meditation."

Paper making is an ancient art form. Fisher makes her paper primarily from cotton rag. The process includes soaking and bleaching the rag in vats of water until it becomes pulp, and dyeing the pulp. Fisher dips a screen into the water to raise and collect the fiber.

"I love the feel of it. I like working with it."

Fisher, 45, has been interested in art for a long time. She opened a specialty gift business in 1983 and had a one-person show of her handmade paper art at the Linda Hayman Gallery in Farmington Hills a couple of years ago.

"In many respects (art) is more important (now). It's very much . . . part of me."

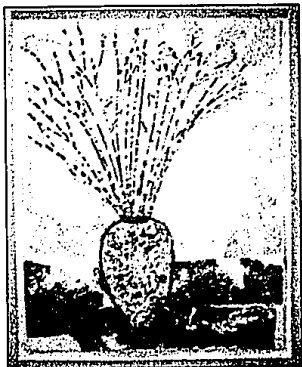
"I think that living every day to the fullest is an important axiom. I think that my children help me take pleasure in moments."

In focus

An exhibit at the Somerset Collection clearly shows how one picture can be worth thousands of words.

The display, continuing through Oct. 8 at Big Beaver Road and Coolidge, features the winning photos from the internationally acclaimed World Photo Press Foundation competition. Big images

See PERSPECTIVES, 3D



Yellow flowers: Many of Mary Fisher's flowers of handmade paper seem to reach up and out.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- A visit to the Helen Frankenthaler exhibit at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham.
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.

Yoko Ono shares personal 'Glimpse'

■ An exhibit of work by Yoko Ono at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum reaffirms her status as an avant-garde artist.

By MARY KLEMIC

STAFF WRITER

Yoko Ono's current exhibit at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills is a blend of the past, present and future.

It's the past in that the show highlights Ono as an avant-garde artist and marks her return to Cranbrook after four years. It's the present

in that it features primarily work Ono created during the 1990s. And it's the future in its suggestions of what lies ahead.

"I still believe that ideas can create reality," Ono said Monday, before she was to give a lecture to Cranbrook students. "Ideas are very strong; thoughts are very strong. We could

rely on that . . . (and) create a better world."

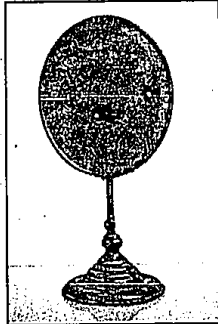
The exhibit, "Glimpse: Works by Yoko Ono at Cranbrook," continues through Oct. 31 at 1221 Woodward.

Artist revisited

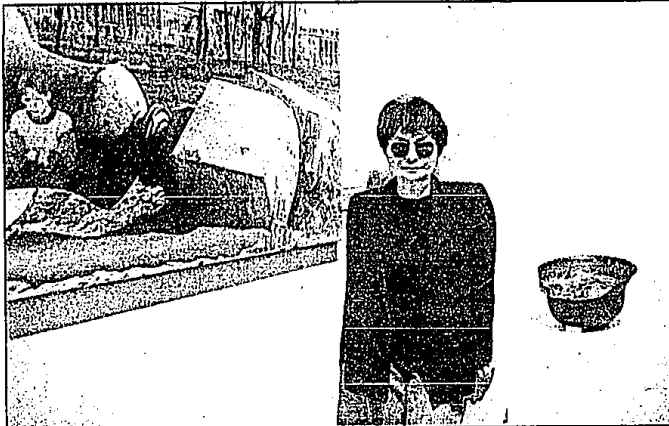
Ono, now 60, was renowned as an artist during the early and mid 1960s.

She was associated with the Fluxus art movement, which challenged materialism. Fluxus artists made inexpensive works that could be reproduced easily. Ono's marriage to John Lennon brought her a celebrity status that overshadowed her status as an artist.

See ONO, 61



Mirror image: A bronze mirror with red paint and bullet holes comments on violence.



'A Glimpse': Yoko Ono stands by some of her art, featured in her exhibit at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORZMEAD

Artist's constructions jazz up, expand tradition

By MARY KLEMIC

STAFF WRITER

Al Loving relates his art to jazz. "You take) conventional instruments and revolutionize the sound," he said of the music.

Loving has moved from the tradition of the brush and canvas. His works are constructions made of such materials as cardboard and rag paper attached to Plexiglas. He calls himself a "material abstractionist."

An exhibit of recent works by Loving continues to Oct. 17 at the G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, 161 Townsend in Birmingham. The large pieces are lively, colorful arrangements of spirals, curves and grids. The vibrant hues convey their own light. Sometimes Loving paints with windshield wipers.

"I like the Renaissance painters, I

like the Impressionists. Rembrandt had a tremendous influence on me.

"I like all these artists who dealt with light, dealt with color."

The constructions carry universal ideas. The shapes within suggest masks or icons, or punctuation marks free from framing words. The spiral is the idea of continuation of life, an open circle. The works are raised away from the wall, continuing and extending their space.

"I like illusionism, I like beauty . . . I like it to be seen up close."

"This has been a continuous growth process . . . I'm always amazed to see what happens (with the work)."

"It has appeal to the critic and the lay person alike," gallery owner George N'Namdi said of Loving's art. "A lot of people come in and say, 'I

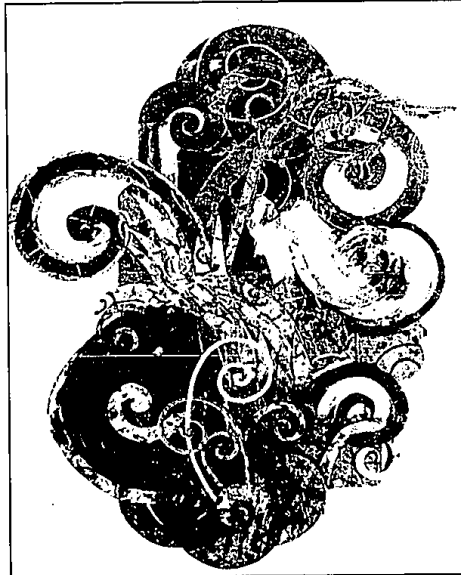
like these.' They respond very well to the work."

Loving, 58, is a Detroit native. His father was an artist and art professor at the University of Michigan.

Loving received a master of fine arts degree from U-M. In 1969, he gave a one-person show at the Whit-

See ARTIST, 4D

'Perpetual Motion': Al Loving's constructions feature spirals that suggest the continuation of life.



'After Mozambique': Loving's lively, colorful pieces are on display at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham.

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 305 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling 644-1314.

■ CENSORSHIP DISCUSSED

The Community House in Birmingham will present a public forum, "Censorship of the Arts?," featuring a speaker and a panel 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, at the Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill in Birmingham. A reception at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, will immediately follow. Admission is free. Reservations are requested. Call The Community House program department at 644-5832.

■ LOVING TO LECTURE

Al Loving, who has an exhibit at the G.R. N'Namdi Gallery in Birmingham through Oct.

Art Beat

17 (see story and photos on this page), will lecture 3 p.m. Sunday at the gallery, 161 Townsend. Call 642-2700.

■ GRANTS OFFERED

The Oakland County Cultural Council is offering project grants to non-profit organizations, institutions, schools, associations and local government agencies in the county. Mini-grants of up to \$2,000 are available to organizers of specific arts and culturally focused projects. The application deadline for projects taking place Feb. 1 through May 31, 1994, is Oct. 8. Call Oakland County Cultural Affairs at 888-0416 for a mini-

grant application.

■ FOCUS ON SCREENWRITING

Harvey Ovshinsky has announced two new rounds of his popular writing group, "How to Complete Your Movie Script in Six Months." Each group has been specially created for new and aspiring screenwriters who feel the need for an extra amount of direction, motivation and personal attention. The cost for the six group sessions is \$300. Enrollment is limited. Call 886-8011.

One group will meet 7-10 p.m. Mondays at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham. The dates will be Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 18, Jan. 10, Feb. 14 and March 14. The other group will meet Wednesdays in the Grasse Pointe War Memorial Center. Call for more information.