

Gallery's magical night to aid kids

BY LINDA ANN CIOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Step back in time to where Rapunzel still lets down her hair in a world of enchanted fairy tales as the Elizabeth Stone Gallery presents a magical evening to benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan Friday, Dec. 3, in the gallery's new space, 536 N. Woodward in Birmingham.

From 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., "Childhood Revisited" will transform the gallery featuring the fine art of children's book illustrations into a magical kingdom where dreams come true. To add to the magic of the evening, New York illustrator/author Kris Waldherr will sign her latest release, "Persephone and the Pomegranate," as well as talk about the art of creating books for children.

Tickets are \$25 per person: patron, \$50; and benefactor, \$75; and available by calling the hospital's auxiliary office at 745-0902 or development office at 745-5373. Responses are requested by Nov. 22.

"This is our first benefit. It's important to me to be involved with the arts and involved with helping children," said gallery owner Elizabeth Stone. "When people come here they'll be walking into a magical place decorated with white lights and trees, and they'll know they're

doing something magical for children."

Ten percent from all sales of original art and lithographs that evening through the end of December will benefit the hospital's nursing endowment and research on how children respond to pain.

The founder of the 4-year-old gallery representing 160 award-winning artists with 3,000 pieces of art in stock came up with the idea for the fund-raiser just recently.

"It's a natural for me to be involved with an organization who is involved with helping children," said the former children's librarian for Brookside School Cranbrook.

Established in 1886, Children's Hospital in the Detroit Medical Center is a 260-bed teaching hospital connected with Wayne State University. Treating everything from brain tumors to gunshot wounds, the hospital draws people from all over the world seeking the best in care for their children.

"Our children are our future. Helping our children is what we're all about," said Susan Baker, Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary president.

"The benefit's one step to help the tiniest and the sickest children."

This is the perfect time and place to help these children. Ac-

ording to Publisher's Weekly, 5,000 new children's books will be published this year. This makes the original art used in the book an investment for the future, but this wasn't always so.

Revised reputation

Up until fairly recent times, children's book art was frowned upon because it was considered illustration, not fine art. But times are changing.

"Prices for many original works by contemporary children's book artists have doubled, tripled, even quadrupled in the past few years," says Money magazine.

"The book is collectible and it is an investment. There are only two galleries in the country where this can be purchased," Stone said.

"The market for the art is growing quickly because there's been so much importance placed on reading to children in the last 10 years. 1876 to 1929 was known as the golden age of illustration, when artists in England and in this country such as Arthur Rackham, Beatrix Potter and Randolph Caldecott began to illustrate books for children. Howard Pyle was the father of American

illustration. N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish and Jessie Wilcox Smith were all American illustrators.

"From 1930 to 1970 it was E.H. Shepherd and the Babar books. In 1975 children's books took off and became a special form of art. We're into the return of the golden age of illustration. A lot of fine artists and commercial illustrators are turning to children's books as a new venue for their work."

Waldherr studied on full scholarship at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She has three books to her publishing credit: "Rapunzel," "The Firebird" and the latest, a retelling of the Greek myth about the abduction of Persephone by Pluto.

Waldherr, who hopes her books "move both children and adults toward a place of enchantment, mystery and beauty," works in oil.

"Betty Stone's art work is very unique in that she deals with children. We thought it was a perfect tie in with Children's Hospital," said event chairwoman Patricia Martin.

"One's for the body and one's for the soul."



Persephone and the Pomegranate
KRIS WALDHERR

Persephone portrait: Illustrator/author Kris Waldherr, whose latest release is pictured above, will visit the Elizabeth Stone Gallery in Birmingham as part of a benefit for Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Design event helps group

More than 1,200 visitors attended the third annual Design, Live! event at the Michigan Design Center in Troy, and helped make an important contribution to Rainbow Connection, the organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

"This is the second year we've been associated with the Rainbow Connection, and we're very pleased to present them with a

check for over \$1,500 to continue their important work," said MDC general manager Susan Zinger.

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