

CREATIVE LIVING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1993

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PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

Natural, strange forms shown in area

The Sybaris Gallery opened the doors to its new location recently, and like anyone settling into a new residence, arranging furniture was a big part of the move.

The gallery's first exhibit in its new spot, 202 E. Third in Royal Oak (call 644-3388), presents carved wood furniture by Howard Werner. Also in the show are sculpture by Werner and jewelry by Julie Anne Michalein. The display continues to Oct. 9.

Many of Werner's furniture pieces seem to be natural forms, highlighted by cracks in the grain of the wood. Yet they are smooth and inviting. The simple, minimalist shapes contain intricate messages in their surfaces.

Using a chainsaw, Werner roughs out a form from a log. It is then left to cure for at least one year, during which time the wood may crack or distort but ultimately stabilizes. Werner finishes the piece with a linseed oil and urethane mixture. The exhibited pieces include a maple chair, which is a low-backed, benchlike seat, and a maple chaise with a sphere for a leg. Two coffee tables feature glass tops resting on rectangular or circular spirals of ash.

A cottonwood bench and bowl slide into each other through a rectangular slit. A large, round dish standing with an "X" on its back looks like an Indian drum or shield. Other works are made of palm or eucalyptus.

The Sybaris has introduced a new feature: one-person and small group shows of work of talented jewelers from around the country. Michalein is the first artist to be so exhibited at the gallery. Her brooches, necklaces and earrings are made of molten glass and precious metals. She puts a new polish on jewelry, by casting the glass to fit the metal instead of vice versa. The materials blend together smoothly, but each keeps its distinctive beauty.

Veiled references

Norma Minkowitz's crocheted sculptural forms hold an air of mystery. The fiber, papier-mache and mixed media pieces are on display through Oct. 23 at The Wetmen Collection, 132 N. Woodward in Birmingham (call 645-6212).

The mystery lies in the shadows that play in the works. The netting's effect is to blur the shapes within. Is that a funnel or a shadow? The paint on that fiber wasn't seen at first glance; is that a heart? Some convey a sense of energy, as the holes seem to buzz or vibrate as the viewer moves around them.

Parts of the body and geometric shapes are featured. Forms and figures may seem to rise or sink into boxes. A work called "Bag Lady" consists of a head with a bag over it.

Another puzzle to the pieces has to do with the idea that something is being covered and confined, but also exposed. The material could be a translucent skin or a meshed cage. Crocheting suggests a delicate quality, but the pieces could be steel mesh to put under an armor.

Vibrant works

A new art gallery in the Lulu antique store, 405 N. Main in Royal Oak, made a bright debut with an exhibit of paintings by Detroit artist Stephen Ligovsky.

Large paintings and smaller watercolors are displayed in almost neon hues, gold squares, handprints and strong, dynamic lines. Some of the pieces feature a human figure that seems to be directly under the canvas. Paintings of mountains have a dreamlike quality, with ladders or lightning as accents. A work called "Burning Obsession" presents a collage of money and slender flames.

Lulu is owned and operated by Royal Oak artist and antique dealer Lulu Cameron. The Ligovsky show continues to Oct. 16. Call 644-6464.

Sleek shapes

Contemporary figurative sculptures by Len Tesla present frozen performances to Oct. 11 at Objects of Art, in the Sugar Tree Plaza at 6243 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield (call 539-3332).

The sleek pieces seem to perform like acrobats or dancers, held in graceful poses. Made of glass-reinforced resin with bronze, silver and black lacquer finishes, the sensuous shapes may be small enough for a table or large enough to be lifelike.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at 901-2569. Her fax number is 644-1314.

Our Town highlights state art



BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Visiting the Our Town Art Exhibition and Sale is taking a special trip.

Viewing the art, you can travel around the world as you see scenes from other countries as well as familiar settings. And you can travel into several galleries at once, sampling a

variety of media, moods, styles and sizes by emerging and established artists from all over Michigan.

Another Our Town journey awaits, with the event taking place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 21-24, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham. Admission is free. For more information, call Leslie

Drolet at 644-5832.

This year's event, the eighth annual show, will feature 328 pieces by 199 artists. The communities they come from include Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Lake Orion, Lathrup Village, Orchard Lake, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Southfield, Troy, Walled Lake, West Bloomfield, Canton, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford and Westland.

"Every year we have had an increasing number of artists that have come to us and the art gets better eve-

ry year," said Libby Dickinson, chairwoman of the steering committee.

All of the art work is for sale, ranging in price from \$50 to \$23,000. Proceeds from sales and special events will benefit The Community House. Franklin Bank is sponsoring this year's show.

Allen Rubiner of the Rubiner Gallery of West Bloomfield, one of the oldest art galleries in the Detroit area, is juror this year. He reviewed 1,250 slides of work submitted by artists.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL

Exhibit has colorful expression

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

An exhibition by Helen Frankenthaler is bound to be a celebration.

So the atmosphere is joyous at the Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend in Birmingham, with a display of monotypes by the renowned artist, 1982-91. The show continues through Oct. 23.

A monotype is an original image made by pressing paper to a flat, smooth surface on which shapes have been inked or painted. Frankenthaler personally selected the pieces for the Kidd showing.

Frankenthaler, now 65, makes liquid imagery as she adds hand-painted areas to the works, intensifying color and forms texture. Her

vigorous works have a sense of spontaneity. If a breeze could be dressed in color, it would look like a Frankenthaler piece.

Larger art works resemble a Southwest desert, with colors that seem to burn and vague shapes that

suggest buttes and plateaus. Frankenthaler's yellows may be sunburst bright, her reds vibrant. Softer colors shimmer as if they are caressing silver. Even when white

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'Monotype XIX': Colors in Frankenthaler's art may shine boldly or shimmer gently.

Area names honored

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County is well represented in the 1993 Governors' Arts Awards. Among the recipients are Birmingham resident Marshall Fredericks, Louis Redstone and Jacobson's Stores Inc. They and six other individuals or organizations will be honored at the ninth annual Governors' Arts Awards Thursday, Oct. 28, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. A reception, dinner and music will be featured along with the awards ceremony.

"I'm thrilled," said Fredericks, who will receive the International Achievement Award. "It's a wonderful honor... I appreciate it very much."

"I was so surprised, I can't tell you," said Civic Leader Award recipient Redstone, founder and chairman of Redstone Architects Inc. of Southfield. "To receive an award for something you like to do is really cream on the cake."

"What I did was really without the slightest expectation of (getting) anything (in return)."

Jacobson's will be presented with the Business Honor Roll Award. Its Birmingham store, on Maple between Southfield Road and Woodward, presents artistic surroundings for the public, including a wall sculpture by Glen Michaels of Troy near the spiral staircase to the second floor.

"We're certainly excited about (the award)," said Janice Hayes, Jacobson public relations director. "It's a great honor for us."

"We've been very much involved in the arts in the various communities in which we do business in Michigan. In many of our stores we are very much aware of architectural touches and artistic pieces."

Pieces by Fredericks are in several sites in Birmingham, among them "Freedom of the Human Spirit" in Shain Park and "Siberian Ram" at the Baldwin Public Library.

His sculpture in other communities includes "Spirit of Detroit" in front of the City County Building, several works at the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, "Boy and Bear" at Northland Shopping Center in Southfield, "Gazelle" in the Southfield Civic Center lobby, a cross at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, "Saints and Sinners" near the Kresge Library at Oakland University in Rochester and "Angel in the Hand of God" in Critten Hospital in Rochester Hills. The Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Gallery is in Saginaw Valley State University.

"(Art) has been my whole life, 70 years," the artist said. Redstone, 90, is an artist and au-

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Art Beat

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.

PRINTFEST PARTICIPANT

Stewart & Stewart of Bloomfield Hills is among 20 print dealers from around the country taking part in Printfest '93 Friday-Sunday, Oct. 8-10, in Milwaukee. Twenty-three artists will be represented, including Michigan residents John Glick, C. Dennis Gusestalla, Jim Nawara, Lucille Foster Nawara, Mel Roast, Norman Stewart and Paul Stewart. For more information, call Stewart & Stewart at 628-5248 or the Milwaukee Art Museum at 414-224-3200.

SPECIAL POTTERY

Paul Janasens, owner of the Palencleries do

Quimper, will visit Jacobson's Birmingham store on Maple this Friday. Handpainted Quimper pottery has a special pastoral charm. Janasens' schedule includes casual discussion with individual collectors 3-5 p.m.

AUTHOR, AUTHOR

Brothers Geoffrey and Tobias Wolff, two of America's finest contemporary authors, will appear 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham. The appearance is part of Baldwin Public Library's "Writers Live at the Library." Borders Book

Shop is co-sponsoring the program with the Birmingham library. For more information, call Baldwin's adult reading department at 647-1700.

WINE WEEKEND

Well-aged wine and cutting edge art are the focus of a weekend of special events benefitting Detroit's Center for Creative Studies. The Detroit International Wine Auction will take place 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn. Tickets are \$175. A Wine Makers Dinner is scheduled 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, at Opus One, 565 E. Larned in Detroit, sponsored by Belconmco Fundings of Bingham Farms. Tickets are \$50. A Taste of Wine and Art, combining a celebration of the achievements of CCS students with a Bordeaux tasting, will take place 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, at CCS, 201 E. Kirby in Detroit. Tickets are \$35. For more information, or to buy tickets, call CCS at 872-3118, Ext. 282.