

CREATIVE LIVING

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CONTINUES IN
SECTION E

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1993

PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIG

Exhibition pieces imagery together

Art is a puzzle for John Corbin. Corbin, a native Detroit now living and working in New York City, uses jigsaw puzzles to make unusual paintings. His pieces are exhibited through Nov. 13 at the Susanne Hilberry Gallery, 555 S. Woodward in Birmingham (call 642-8290).

The artist takes a commercially manufactured puzzle and adds painted images of such media as oil, acrylic, gesso and tempera to it. The result is an image within an image, textures and shapes within colors; the fun is finding what you can.

"I like to play with that a person could look at (a puzzle) as color or a beautiful image," said Corbin, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Wayne State University and a master of fine arts degree from the School of Visual Arts in New York.

"In the beginning it was just another surface to work on. I give a certain respect to the puzzle itself."

In "American Gothic," Corbin started with a puzzle of the Grant Wood portrait and superimposed an image of a Gothic cathedral at Chartres. The puzzle pieces were irregular. Corbin scratched in regular shapes over the image, making a fence-like pattern. "Watson and the Shark" is a puzzle of John Singleton Copley's famous painting, with Corbin's vivid coloring of several pieces scattered throughout.

"See/Saw" features atek figures. "War at Sea" is a scene of planes fighting over a sea, with one piece missing and Corbin's series of lines emanating like splashes. "Up the River" shows two people fishing in a boat, with a hole cut in the shape of one of the figures in the river. For "Mount Rushmore" Corbin added sperm shapes around the monument, a play on the phrase "fathers of our country."

In other works, the spectrum makes a design that almost seems to vibrate. "Minnie," borrowing a Hulk Hogan figure, presents bright hues at first glance, and shadows of a human figure and geometric shapes upon further examination.

Some of the puzzle paintings are covered with fabric. One of these, "Bird," also contains black lines like flying birds.

Other works have an additional kind of puzzle with their titles. "Gingerbread Man puzzle with shapes around it." The title is a code, involving not repeating any letters while giving the name of the scene and what was done to it by the artist. For example, the "sq" in this title indicates the squares painted on the puzzle.

Corbin's work with cardboard mosaics led him to cardboard puzzles. Today the artist, whose studio is above an antique shop, finds puzzles in his travels and from friends and acquaintances.

On with masks

A special kind of masquerade party is on at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine in Rochester.

"Disguises: Artists' Masks," an exhibit of masks and mask-related art, continues there through Nov. 5 (call 651-4110). The display contains 36 works in many different media by 20 artists from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, California, New Mexico and Washington. It was juried by Paint Creek Center exhibition coordinator Kathleen English.

"Earth Mask I" by Christine Welch of Birmingham features sand-covered cloth decorated with small shells. The fabric is draped like a hood and layered, looking like lines left by the tide. A mask by Eileen Attwood of Swartz Creek, Mich., is made up of many little faces.

The mask by Joe Maniscalco of Orchard Lake brings to mind a Mardi Gras celebration, with its bright colors. It is shaped in a cylinder, with two faces on the bottom and cloth folded over on the top in a way that resembles a jester's hat. The "Spiritturtle" mask by Peter Hackett of Rochester is made of recycled materials including wire and tubing.

"Pyretic Vamp" by Audrey DiMarco of West Bloomfield is an arrangement of large pieces forming a three-dimensional collage or mosaic. Sylvan Lake artist Tessa Stein's masks feature tribal figures. In one of them, a bound woman is placed between the mask's forehead and nose. "Fire Mask," one of the pieces by Franklin Horton of Rochester, also has a tribal look, with hands of flames on the cheeks.

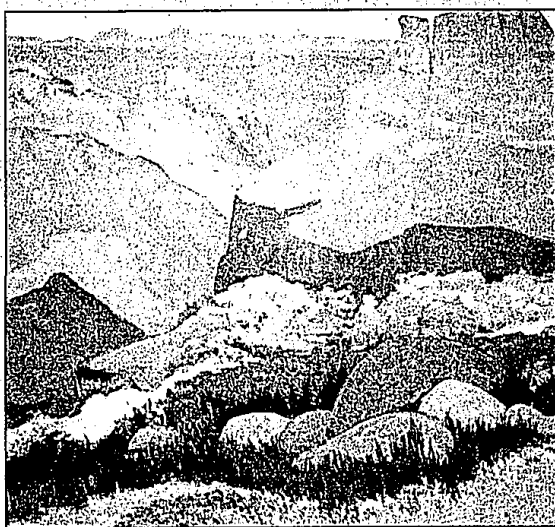
Linda Carollo Endres of Sterling Heights made prismacolor images on gourd shells. Mixed media horse heads by Christine Reising of Ann Arbor

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LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- Marty Figley's Garden Spot column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



'High Country': Marilyn Spencer of Bloomfield Township paints majestic landscapes inspired by Arizona scenes. Her landscapes and figure paintings are exhibited at the Cary Gallery in Rochester.

Artists at home with colorful landscapes



Nature is the inspiration and the subject of colorful paintings by Darcy Scott of Birmingham and Marilyn Spencer of Bloomfield Township. The works, along with figure paintings by Spencer, are exhibited at the Cary Gallery in Rochester.

By MARY KLEMIG
STAFF WRITER

Nature serves as a powerful subject in paintings by Darcy Scott and Marilyn Spencer that are now exhibited at the Cary Gallery in Rochester.

The figures and landscapes are on display to Nov. 4 at 226 Walnut Blvd. They include sites that have special fascination for the two artists. The two both work in their respective studios — Scott from quick sketches of a scene, Spencer from memory and reinvented situations and people. Their finished works are refreshing and un-

cluttered. Scott's works are scenes of beaches, her favorite spots to paint. "Nature is my biggest inspiration," said Scott, a Birmingham resident.

"This show is all beach and water. It's my escape so to speak." "It (her work) looks very simple when you first look at it, but the more you look at it the more you see," gallery director Alan Cary said.

For example, the water in a scene appears blue at first, but soft shades of purple and green appear the longer the work is viewed. The

foam of the waves seems to dissipate the more they are eyed, like cotton candy melts in the mouth. Trees, sand, birds and human figures in the setting are gentle images, seeming to be comfortable and at home.

Spencer of Bloomfield Township is primarily a figure painter, but the exhibit features her majestic desert landscapes as well. Some of her works are on handmade Japanese rice paper.

"I've been a people observer all my life," Spencer said. "This year I got really interested in Arizona landscapes." "This is a new direction for her," Cary said. "She's always done figure work."

Both Spencer's figure and landscape paintings feature warm colors

See EXHIBIT, 4E

'Dune Walk No. 2': Darcy Scott of Birmingham paints landscapes featuring water and beach. Her works are also on display at the Cary Gallery in Rochester.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM RIDER

Artboat 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 644-3141.

■ **COMPETITION DEADLINE** Friday-Saturday, Oct. 29-30, are deadline days for entry fees and works for the 12th annual Hol-DeRoy Art Competition, sponsored by Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus. For information, call K. Tazian at 471-7798 or write the OCC, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills 48334. A total \$4,000 in awards will be given, including first prize of up to \$2,000.

■ **CHARLOTTE'S GARDEN** The Franklin Foundation will dedicate a garden in memory of Michigan first lady Charlotte Ellison, in recognition of her devotion to the preservation of Franklin, 3 p.m. Sunday. The garden is just south of the Village Office, behind the Broughton House on Franklin Road.

■ **GLASS TALK** A slide presentation, "From Chartres to Detroit: 1,000 Years of Stained Glass," will be presented

Art Beat

by Barbara Krueger as part of the Oakland County Cultural Council Brown Bag Lunch Series noon to 1 p.m. today in the Computer Services Auditorium at the County Service Center in Pontiac. Call Cultural Affairs at 858-0415 for more information.

The discussion and lecture will feature well-known stained glass installations from around the world. Krueger, an active stained glass artist for 20 years, is chairwoman of the Educational Committee of the Stained Glass Association of America.

■ **GREAT PUMPKINS** English Gardens, 6370 Orchard Lake Road, north of Maple in West Bloomfield, is celebrating Halloween with its annual pumpkin-decorating contest Saturday, Oct. 30. Young people ages 3-16 may participate. New this year is a Halloween costume contest. Call 851-7506 for more in-

Character shines in jewelry

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Silversmith Fay Herman uses humor to weather life. Herman's whimsical Sterling Characters (lapel pins) not only mirror her colorful personality but reflect the Latin American craft collection displayed in her Farmington Hills home.

Armadillos, dogs, cats, birds, horses, golfers, female weight lifters and trucks as well as tennis rackets, fish and music symbols such as treble clefs and solitary notes merely hint at the hundreds of sterling silver pins Herman will exhibit along with sophisticated earrings, pin/pendants and rings in the second annual Birmingham Village Players Art and Gift Fair, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 22-23, at the theater building on the corner of Hunter and Chestnut, two blocks south of Maple.

The fair, free to the public, opens with a gala champagne reception 6-10 p.m. Friday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

"I tell people I call them Sterling Characters because I am one," said the cunning craftswoman.

No less than five work benches stocked with jewelry's tools and machinery line the walls of Herman's workshop from which clients have requested pins in the shapes of antique printing presses, vacuum cleaners and classic cars. Allen, Herman's husband and number one stone cutter, sits at a bench crafting fine silver beads for stones that will eventually comprise an elegant lady's brooch designed by her.

"I tell everyone my husband is a forger and embezzler because the silver's crimped around the stones with forging and embossing tools." Lapels, brooches, oyx and jasper are a few of the stones Herman employs to create the luxurious pins for women's suits and dresses. Herman calls them PIN-darts because the piece can be worn on a lapel or as a necktie. Some of green and purple play against each other in one setting while antique poker chips serve as a background for another. Ingenuity is key to Herman's creations.

Bakelite appears often in the jewelry mimicking stones. Herman has a collection of nearly 300 Bakelite pendants displayed inside a specially built storage cabinet in the couple's bedroom.

"You need a dynamic tension in the piece. I don't like formal rigidity." "Bakelite was the first synthetic plastic in the 1930s. It's thermostat so it doesn't melt."

Herman became interested in jewelry making more than 25 years ago. Since then she has exhibited in hundreds of art fairs.

"It started with a Petoskey stone. Allen put it in a regular mounting. I didn't like the way it looked so I took a jewelry class."

Halfway through Herman dropped out because she felt she could learn more from books.

Herman's Sterling Characters definitely reflect the couple's Latin American craft collection. Each nook and cranny of the home is filled with a rainbow of armadillos, bears, gazelles and mythological creatures. A 1940s handwoven rug from Mexico thrown over a second level banister adds to the warmth of the family room. The environment echoes the warm feeling you receive from looking at Herman's Sterling Characters.

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formation.

First- (\$25 English Gardens gift certificate), second- (\$15 English Gardens gift certificate) and third- (\$10 English Gardens gift certificate) place prizes will be selected in both categories: Best Pumpkin and Best Halloween Costume. Participants must arrive by 12:45 p.m. for registration. Judging will begin at 1 p.m. A local police officer will be on hand to discuss Halloween safety.

■ **PHOTO SEMINAR**

The Photographic Guild will present a one-day seminar featuring nature photographer Freeman Paterson beginning 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Michigan State University Management Education Center, Crooks and Square Lake roads in Troy. Tickets for the program, "Photography and the Art of Seeing," are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. Lunch is available for an extra \$10 with advance tickets only. Advance ticket sales are available through Saturday, Oct. 30. Seating is limited. For ticket information, call Chris Griffith at 544-7119 after 7 p.m.