



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1993

CREATIVE LIVING

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PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

Artist explores new dimensions in fiber

With the space between its fibers, fabric can be seen as a material that "breathes."

In his exhibit continuing to Nov. 13 at the Sybaris Gallery, 202 E. Third in Royal Oak (call 644-3388), Gerhardt Knodel breathes new life into the medium.

Knodel, head of the fiber department at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, puts the versatility of fabric to full use. The pieces challenge traditional views about textiles.

"How to make works that include, rather than exclude?" the artist said. "How to make works that exist on the periphery, defining space, rather than occupying or filling the space? The search for answers to these questions is at the core of the work comprising this exhibition."

Many large pieces are suspended. The images they bear, such as leaves or rocks, are interwoven into the textiles. The textiles are netting, but rather than holding something they are setting it in motion. As the giant pieces hang, stirring slightly, the images seem to move and shimmer.

Eight large, slender columns of netting line the room, hanging from the ceiling and shifting slowly. Each circular black base holding a column in place resembles a burner and the subtly shaded columns can resemble flickering flames. Colors within colors are seen as the pieces turn, along with different levels of yellow on each column. The yellow graduated levels form a series of steps when the pieces are viewed in a row.

With some of the other pieces, Knodel painted portals on the wall where they hang, making it look as though they are in front of doorways. The room is opening up rather than closing in.

This year, Knodel will be inducted as a Fellow of the American Craft Museum in New York City, an honor bestowed on the most highly regarded artists in the field. Knodel has been artist in residence and head of the fiber department at Cranbrook since 1970. His art works can be seen in architectural commissions and museums around the country.

Helping hand

The Fabulous Gallery, 402 Main in Rochester (call 651-6960), is showing heart with art in an event this week.

The gallery will host artist Kathleen Chaney Fritz of Grand Rapids, known for her scenic water-colors of Michigan, 4-8 p.m. Saturday. Fritz will personalize posters. She has donated one of her original works, now on display at the gallery, which will be raffled off that evening. Half of the proceeds from poster sales and all of the raffie proceeds will benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Raffie tickets, now available at the gallery, are \$2.50.

"Kathleen is one of our most favorite artists here," said gallery owner Tom Savelly.

"I'm very partial to watercolors. She has a lot of nice scenes . . . Harbor Springs, Traverse City."

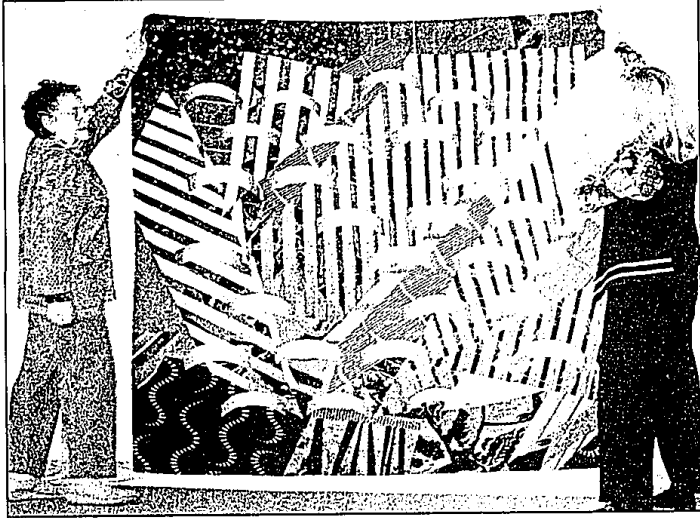
Fritz's scenes are colorful, gentle renderings of quiet scenes. Their tranquil waters bear reflections of the simple boats or harbors on them. Their skies seem to be kissed by the sun.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at 901-2669. Her fax number is 644-1314.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAN DEAN

Colossal quilts: The pieces in "The Artist and the Quilt" may tell a story, as does the work above, or feature a dramatic display of colors, as does the quilt at right held by curator Merry Silber (left) and Sylvia Nelson, director of the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery.



Quilts warm to cultural theme



Needle and thread unite cultures in an exhibit and sale at the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery in the Jewish Community Center. The show features quilts and wall hangings made with American patchwork quilting techniques and Jewish themes.

BY MARY KLEMIC

STAFF PHOTOS

Needle and thread take on special strength, and the patterns they make take on a special beauty and significance, in a first-of-its-kind exhibit and sale beginning this month at the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery in the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

In "The Artist and the Quilt," stitches merge cultures as well as fabric. The old art of American patchwork quilting and Jewish traditions come together in the display's 60 quilts and wall hangings. The works were created by artists of Jewish descent, or depict Jewish themes. Most of the pieces are by renowned artists whose paintings are in museums around the world.

The show will be up Saturday and Sunday for a special preview in time

for the Jewish Book Fair at the center, 6600 W. Maple at Drake, and continuing through Dec. 31.

"These are extraordinary works of art," said curator Merry Silber of Birmingham, a well-known quilt authority and collector.

"The quilt as a work of art appeals to me," said gallery director Sylvia Nelson.

"It's so subtle to work with fabrics." Related events are an opening night reception 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, featuring guest speaker Julie Silber, a quilt historian and author; a talk by quilt artist Paula Nadelstern 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14; and Senior Citizens Day Tuesday, Nov. 16.

At 1:30 p.m. on Senior Citizens Day, 80-year-old Lucia Robiner, who

SEE EXHIBIT, 4E



Dancing trio: Artist Kath Lathers of the Backdoor Gallery in Farmington made these joyous Hasidic dolls for the show, which merges an old American art with Jewish tradition.

Respected names pick up state arts honors

BY MARY KLEMIC

STAFF PHOTOS

Long-respected names in the area received special honors Thursday night at the ninth annual Governors' Arts Awards.

Marshall Fredericks, Louis Redstone and Jacobson Stores Inc. were presented with awards in a ceremony at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The event celebrated those who made a significant contribution to the arts in Michigan, and reinforced the importance of the arts as well.

"Art is everywhere," said Judy Dow Alexander, chairwoman of Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan. "It is our job to keep the recognition of art alive for everyone. Each of us needs to take the gospel of the arts everywhere we go. Keep arts alive."

Local names

Fredericks, a Birmingham resident

SEE HONORS, 8E



JOHN STORME/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glorious event:

Louis Redstone (left), his wife, Ruth, and Marshall Fredericks were on hand Thursday night for the Governors' Arts Awards at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Louis Redstone and Fredericks were honored for their significant contributions to the arts.



Installation: New works by Gerhardt Knodel fill the room at the Sybaris Gallery in Royal Oak.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- A visit with Birmingham artist Richard Koslow, whose exhibit opens at the Posner Gallery in Farmington Hills.
- Marty Figley's Garden Spot column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.

Art Beat

FABULOUS BENEFIT

The Fabulous Gallery, 402 Main in Rochester, will host Michigan artist Kathleen Chaney Fritz in a benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6. Fritz, well known for her scenic watercolors of Michigan, will personalize posters and one of her original, limited edition prints, now on display at the gallery, will be raffled off. Raffie tickets are \$2.50 and are available at the gallery through Saturday. Half of the proceeds from poster sales and all of the proceeds from the raffie will benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Call 651-6960 for more information.

ART FAIR

N Squared Productions, formed three years ago by Nancy Blechman Clark of Bloomfield Hills and Nanci Einstein of Birmingham, will

present its second annual Art One Fall Fair 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, in the Physical Education Building on the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College. A portion of each \$3 ticket, and all proceeds from a silent auction of art work, will be donated to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Area artists taking part include Stan Magdall of Birmingham, Alfred Ponte and Joan Wilson of Rochester, Cheryl Noonan of Troy and Ted Petok of West Bloomfield. The building is one mile east of the Pontiac Silverdome at 2300 Featherstone, north of M-59 and west of Oplyke.

WRITERS LIVE

The final author in the "Writers Live" program, Jaimy Gordon, will appear 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, in the Baldwin Library-Ratory Room, 300 W. Merrill in Birmingham. Gordon, a teacher at Western Michigan University, is author of "She Drove Without Stopping." For more information, call the adult reading department at Baldwin at 647-1700.

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.

DESIGN DISCUSSION

Ron Rex of Peterhanssen Design in Birmingham will be the guest speaker for the season's final Viewpoint at the Michigan Design Center in Troy on Friday, Nov. 19. Rex will discuss "Commercial Design . . . Designer's Role in the Business World." Cost is \$7 per person. For reservations, make checks payable to the MDC and mail them to the MDC, 1700 Stutz, Suite 25, Troy 48064 by Friday, Nov. 12. A reception will be at 3 p.m. and the lecture at 4 p.m. For more information, call 649-4770.

A student of architecture at Lawrence Technological University and of fine arts and industrial design at Wayne State University, Rex's inspired work can be seen throughout the Detroit metro area, including Sobashan's Grille, Sweet Lorraine's and Old Woodward Grille.