

Home tour features treasured antiques

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Sylvia Sullivan has always liked antiques, she said. An interior designer, Sullivan says a room can be designed around an antique ("I think that it's a wonderful blend," she said). As chairwoman of the "Turando" opening night gala for the Michigan Opera Theatre, she selected the historic Wayne County Court House as the site for the April 23 event. And her Bloomfield Hills home is one of four residences on an antiques collection tour as a special feature of the Birmingham Antiques Festival.

"I think it's just a wonderful appreciation of craft, construction and design of early years," Sullivan said, explaining her love of antiques. "I just appreciate it." The tour will take place 2-5 p.m. Tuesday, April 5. Maps will be provided. Tickets, \$30, can be ordered by mail. Send a check (made out to The Community House) to The Community House, Attention: Special Events, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009. Tickets can also be ordered by phone with MasterCard or Visa. Call the special events department at The Community House, (810) 644-5832, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Ticket supply is limited.

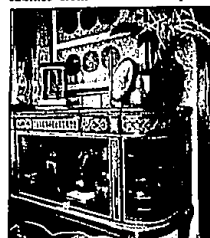
The houses on the tour are in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills. Deceats will be in each home to point out the special features of the antiques. A tea will be given for all tour guests in a landmark Bloomfield Village home owned by John and Mary Lane-sky.

Mary and her partner David Sikkelee make up the Signatures,

a two-person entertainment group that has entertained at private corporate parties across the United States as well as at popular locations throughout the Detroit area. They have performed at the Masters Tournament in Augusta, at the Indy 500 and for Governor John Engler, and were the backup group for Randy Travis at a benefit performance for Sacred Heart Academy.

Many of Sullivan's antiques are Oriental. She and her husband lived in Asia (Japan, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines and Malaysia) and Australia.

One of her favorite pieces is an early 18th century Chippendale cabinet from China. The piece



Ornate: This European piece in Sylvia Sullivan's home features ornate designs and open sides. Sullivan's residence is one of those featured on a tour of antique collections Tuesday as part of the Birmingham Antiques Festival.

features little secret compartments, gold leaf and tranquil nature scenes on the inside of the doors. One of the items in the eclectic arrangement on top of it is an antique Oriental birdcage.

Elsewhere in the home is an early 19th century wall hanging from Japan. The delicate pattern includes imagery of the four seasons.

An early 19th century, Chinese, wood and lacquer screen, reaching from floor to ceiling, has carved figures and Oriental symbols. It is reversible: one side has winter images, the other spring images.

A European bureau has open sides and a marble top. An ornate pattern adorns the borders.

The Birmingham Antiques Festival, taking place at The Community House, opens Thursday, April 7, with a preview party and runs through Sunday, April 10. Admission to the show is \$5. Forty dealers from 11 states will display their antiques. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 8, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 9 and noon to 5 p.m. April 10.

A garden shoppe with garden accessories and gift items will be open during show hours on the lower level of The Community House. Also open on the lower level during show hours will be the Bates Street Cafe, which will serve light meals.

Admission to the preview party is \$50 for benefactors and \$30 for sponsors. The party begins at 6 p.m. for benefactors and 7 p.m. for sponsors. A silent auction featuring items from participating dealers will take place during the pre-

view. Lectures are scheduled for April 8-10: tickets are \$12 per lecture and include refreshments and a general admission ticket to the festival for the same day. For more information, call The Community House. Ameritech and WWJ News Radio 950 are general sponsors of the festival.

Fond of antiques: Sylvia Sullivan of Bloomfield Hills stands by a wood and lacquer antique screen from China. The piece features carvings of images and symbols and is reversible, showing winter on one side and spring on the other.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMANS

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Real Estate

But Were Afraid To Ask

- Call For Free, Private Consultation
- Current Market Conditions
- Mortgage Information
- Market Analysis

689-7300
WEIR, MANUEL, SNYDER & RANKE



Jack Cloud

REAL ESTATE ATTORNEYS

Buying or selling your home may be the largest transaction in your lifetime. We specialize in assisting you with your entire real estate transaction protecting your legal interests.

Representing Buyers and Sellers

Purchase Agreements • Title Examination • Easements • Affidavits • Closing

Stuart A. Best
BEST & BEST, P.C.
Attorneys at Law

16291 Fourteen Mile Rd., Suite 28 • Birmingham
810-549-3900

ARK FINANCIAL

6735 Telegraph • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Buy More House with Less Down

as little as **3%** down

Call For Personal Loan Consultation

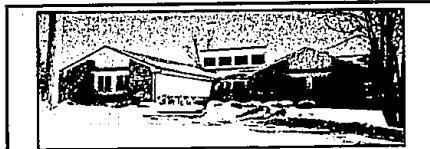
646-1000

REFINANCE NOW!!!

0 Points*
0 Orig. Fees*
0 Closing Costs*

*Many loans are eligible; call now to see which will work best for you.

Fleet Mortgage Corp.
462-4041



LIVE IN CLARKSTON COUNTRY
Outstanding value, tasteful Clarkston Contemporary approx. 1.7 acres. Exciting and scenic country setting. Glazed tile entry, vaulted ceilings, open floor plan lets room (and light) flow into one another. To die for walkout. Immaculate, neutral decorating makes this home ready to move right in! \$217,400. By appointment only.

COLDWELL BANKER
Expect the best.
THE MICHAEL GROUP
810-625-1333

COMMERCE CUSTOM BUILT TUDOR HOME



4 bedrooms, master suite with full bath, 1st floor laundry, family room with fireplace, 2nd bath, finished basement, air conditioning, inground pool and over 1.5 wooded acre lot. This home is immaculate, impressive and now priced at \$239,000. Please call 698-2111 or 890-3940, ask for PAUL MARTIN, CENTURY 21 At The Lakes.

Ask For...
PAUL MARTIN
698-2111 or 890-3940
CENTURY 21 At The Lakes

SOMETHING EXTRA:

ART PALETTE

Art investing can be thrilling without the terror

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

To someone who is thinking of investing in art for the first time, the prospect might bring on the thrills and terror of an Indiana Jones adventure.

Jones, the hero of "Raiders of the Lost Ark," faced such dangers as poisoned darts and giant boulders as he acquired a valued work. The would-be art investor might fear issues concerning how to buy art smart — what to look for, how to deal with galleries, for example. But just as Jones' handy equipment and knowledge helped him win his prize, a combination of preparation and directness can help someone invest in art.

Art is a tangible item that appreciates with time, investment expert Richard Rush once said.

The appreciation "provides not only a real reason for investing in art, but at the same time a splen-

did excuse for a person to buy what he wants," he said.

Reasons to invest

"Truly, art is for everyone," said Albert Scaglione, president and founder of Park West Gallery, 29469 Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

People spend money to furnish their home. Such items as furniture devalue over a five- or 10-year period to "almost nothing," Scaglione said. Art, on the other hand, can increase in value.

The cost for a work is often determined by the status of the artist and the open market demand. Costs can fluctuate a great deal among similar works of a single artist.

"It's pretty much like the stock market," said Mark Doren, director of Gallerie 454, 176 S. Woodward in Birmingham. "Blue chip stocks are prosperous and well

known, the risk of losing dollars is less.

"Apply good business sense principles toward that piece of art."

Not everyone would recommend investing in art.

"A lot of it is luck," said David Klein of the O.K. Harris/David Klein Gallery, 430 N. Woodward in Birmingham.

He recommends buying art for your pleasure rather than as an investment.

"Just a level of quality. The more you look, the more galleries you go to... eventually you (rely on) your own decisions."

Intimidation factor

Don't be intimidated by art. Your own instincts and common sense can help guide you. Never buy art purely for investment, and never buy something you don't like.

How to find what appeals to you? Get exposed to art. Visit museums and galleries and read publications. You can focus your interests on periods, styles or schools (such as the old masters, impressionism or pop art), subjects, media and region.

"The best thing you can do is visit the galleries," Scaglione said.

"Find what you like. Don't let us tell you what art is."

Investigate

Only after you know what art appeals to you, start your fact-finding. Investigate condition, market value, authenticity and importance. Sources include artists, art historians, museum curators, restorers, collectors and dealers.

Galleries can provide art consultants and a research department to help someone find out

about a particular work or artist.

"We act as a sieve," Doren said. "We're qualifying for our clients. Go and talk to the people in the gallery. If you don't like (it) or something doesn't seem right, keep asking questions."

"Before they buy anything they should ask, 'If I don't want this tomorrow, what can I get for it?' That's a sobering question."

The dealer should be able to prove the answer to you.

Auction prices are good indicators for cost appraisals of known artists, Doren said. Auction indexes for art are available at many libraries. The artist's biography and some work's provenance (which is the history of ownership) are important to know.

"Look at more of where (the artist) has been, what he has done, where he has shown," Doren said.

"(The biography) is like a resume. You'd want to see who they are."

Know your budget. Be realistic. If a particular piece is too expensive, look for something with similar characteristics that is more affordable. Tell the dealer what you're looking for.

In other centuries, art was acquired by emperors and kings, churches and the wealthy. But economic, demographic and cultural trends came together in the late 1970s to make buying art seen as business sense, not pure luxury, professional art adviser Jeffrey Deitch wrote in "The Business of Art."

These trends included the coming of age of baby boomers and inflation panic, as people saw cash eroding in value and hurried to put money into such tangible assets as art.

Lunch at The Ritz

Now at Objects of Art
Full 1994 Menu

6243 Orchard Lake Rd.
N. of 15 Mile
West Bloomfield
539-3332
Sage Tree Plaza

Barclays

...your source for rare and unique antique art spanning 4000 years.

Original Antique Graphics C.1700-1870:
English Botanicals
Japanese Woodblocks
Indian Miniatures
American Audubons

Treasures from Past Cultures:
Ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Pre Columbian Artifacts

Traditional African & Oceanic Art

Antique Arms & Armor

280 E. Merrill, Birmingham 645-5430

Use our 4 month Lay Away Plan

Yaw Gallery

Cornelia Roethel
22 karat gold jewelry
April 7 - May 4, 1994

550 North Woodward
Birmingham, MI 48009
810-64715470

Representing national and international artists who make jewelry