

# CREATIVE LIVING

**D**

MARY KLEMIC, EDITOR  
901-2669

CONTINUES IN  
SECTION 2

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1994

PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

## Area shows lighten, brighten up days

**A**round and about the area art scene: Mary Mark's bright floral paintings offer a cheery welcome to visitors at the Russell Klatt Gallery, 1467 S. Woodward in Birmingham (call) (810) 647-6655.

Original works on paper and canvas by Mark are featured in a new showing in May 28. The artist will make a personal appearance at the gallery Saturday, May 21.

The still lifes contain bold colors that have the richness of jewels but not the coolness. It is as if they are extending a hand to the viewer. The still lifes often have settings in rooms, with parts of furniture showing, further drawing the viewer to them. Lively patterns in fabrics and on objects in the scenes, as well as borders around them, add to their vibrancy.

### Love of land

Wendell Minor is a down-to-earth dreamer. "That isn't a paradox. Minor is an award-winning artist with a deep love of the country and of the planet. He wants to pass his love of nature, biology and history and sense of place to youngsters, inspiring them to experience nature firsthand.

"Most children think nature is a program on PBS," he said at the recent opening of his exhibit at the Elizabeth Stone Gallery, 536 N. Woodward in Birmingham (call) (810) 647-7040.

"I'm also leaving some kind of legacy behind." The showing of a collection of Minor's original art continues through June 4.

Minor spoke enthusiastically about a wide range of nature and environmental topics, from calling a spider's web an architectural miracle to describing what it must be like to view Earth from a spaceship (NASA commissioned him in 1988 to document the shuttle Discovery's return to flight).

Minor's cover illustrations are on more than 1,500 works, including the best sellers "Truman" by David McCullough, "The Princes of Tides" by Pat Conroy, "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe" by Fannie Flagg, "Alaska" by James Michener and "Anything for Billy" by Larry McMurtry.

Minor grew up in Illinois. His father was a hunter and a fisherman who taught him the names of trees.

"I always drew pictures of birds and wild things."

The artist studied at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla. His jobs included working for Hallmark cards before he got into creating original designs for book covers about 25 years ago.

"I kept up my interest in painting the scenic landscape."

Minor's love of nature can be seen in his sensitive renderings of animals, including bobcats, foxes, bears and pigs. He depicts majestic sequoias, planted fields that seem to embrace the earth, awe-inspiring glaciers.

"It's creation of taking things from nature and putting them down on paper in a real sense."

His greatest reward, he said, is when he hears from the public that they think they recognized a person or a place in his illustrations; thinking a farmer is a relative of theirs, or that they know where a farmhand is.

Next year Harcourt Brace & Co. will publish a 25-year retrospective of Minor's cover art, "Wendell Minor: Art for the Written Word," with an introduction by McCullough.

### Fresh view

Like a garden right after a gentle rain, the County Galleria in Fontana offers a fresh variety of crisp images, vibrant color and soft shading in "Point of View," the spring exhibition of the Palette and Brush Club. Many images have enjoyable subtle aspects.

The display, which was juried by artist Lucille Procter Nawara, continues through May 31 in the Executive Office Building at 1200 N. Telegraph (call) (810) 858-0415.

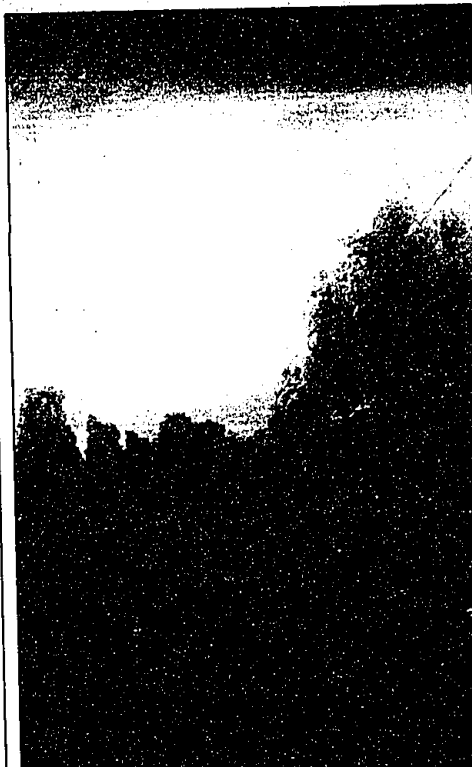
First place went to Toni Stevens for her watercolor "Brendan with Blanket," a portrait in which the blues of the young man's eyes and shirt, pinks of his skin and the drapery and browns of his hair and the chair pick up each other. The portrait shows both softness and

See PERSPECTIVES, 7E

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- Mary Fligley's Garden Spot column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



*'In Proportion to Landscape': This softly toned monoprnt by Denny Moers is one of his lyrical and poetic interpretations of what a camera has recorded. It is included in Moers' one-man show now at the Pierce Street Gallery in Birmingham.*

## He develops dreamy art



Denny Moers makes rather than takes photographs. Through a process in the darkroom, he turns photos of landscapes into dreamlike images. They may look like collages or Oriental scrolls, and stones and structures may take on special appearances. Moers' exhibit of photographic monoprnts continues through June 20 at the Pierce Street Gallery in Birmingham.

By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

Out of such materials as granite, sand and stone, Denny Moers makes dreamlike works.

In a combination of photography and painting, he creates poetic interpretations of what his camera records.

"The Landscape Redefined," a show of Moers' photographic monoprnts, continues through June 20 at the Pierce Street Gallery, 217 Pierce in Birmingham.

"The task is really one of transforming from something literal into something suggestive and imaginative in context," the artist said while visiting the gallery.

"They're metaphors."

Most of the scenes in the Pierce Street exhibit are from deserts in Arizona and California. One is from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Except for one featuring horses, the landscapes are uninhabited.

"These are anonymous places generally."

Moers makes rather than takes photographs. He is concerned with each print as an individual work, rather than as one of multiple images. Starting with the developed print, he adds light to the darkroom, which "fogs" (shifts the tonal balance of) the prints. He then selectively paints on the fixer.

A mountain looks like an Oriental scroll. Other scenes look desolate and ragged, as though they have

just been created. Skies look as though they are on fire, or are filled with dancing lines like creatures seen in a microscope. In one work dark strokes are near the top of the print, suggesting they are something descending or ascending.

Another piece has a collage effect. Hillsides in the scene resemble corners of a butterfly's wings. The trees are ghostly figures in water, which ripples in a broadca-like pattern.

Stones take on life. One segment of a desert wall is separated from the rest, with its lower corner sliced away as if it could topple any moment. Other stone forms resemble coral or figures in a crowd.

A scene with a barn features a ladder going nowhere, seemingly hanging from the sky or rising from the ground. Tinted strokes make the barn look as if it is burning. A window scene in the structure is brighter than the rest of it, as if showing a better place beyond.

Moers' monoprnts came about after he did a series of architectural photography, working with remains of ancient cultures in Tokyo, Yugoslavia, Morocco, Mexico and Spain.

"I've been an artist since I was a teenager," said Moers, who lives in Rhode Island. "That's all I've done."

Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and by appointment. Call (810) 646-6950.

## Antique shop sets royal celebration next week

By MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

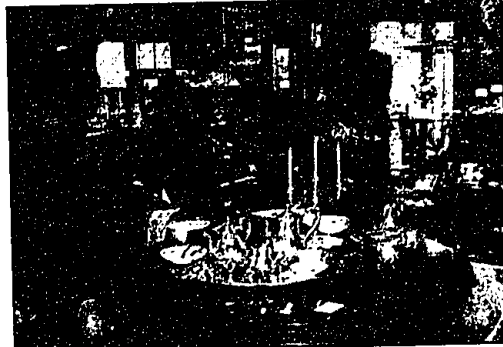
Downtown Rochester's newest antique shop, Antiques by Pamela at 331 Main, is planning a 175th birthday celebration in honor of Queen Victoria (who was born May 24, 1819).

The shop's celebration will take place Tuesday-Saturday, May 24-28. Special museum-quality items will be exhibited - and some available for sale - including at least two documents and a book about her life signed by Queen Victoria, a letter handwritten by her, a signed photo of Prince Albert, engravings, commemorative pieces, a chocolate box and a pipe. Call (810) 662-0808 for information.

Victorian objects will be especially popular in the year 2000, said shop owner Pamela Krampf of Rochester Hills.

"I just hope to bring in history. I'm a teacher, I can't help it," said Krampf, an elementary school learning consultant for the Rochester Community Schools who has a full-time teaching career of 18 years.

Queen Victoria of England, who ruled 1837-1901, is the inspiration for many of the items offered in the shop, Krampf said. Featured are jewelry, buttons, beaded bags, furniture, prints, mirrors, silver, china, pottery, glassware and period cloth-



*Very Victorian: Antiques by Pamela, 331 Main in Rochester, was inspired by Queen Victoria of England. The shop will celebrate the queen's 175th birthday by featuring special items next week.*

ing. In her study of Queen Victoria's long life and reign, Krampf discovered that many facets of the queen's years can be equated with life today. Victorian calling cards, for example, are forerunners of today's modern business cards. Their meaning and use in proper social etiquette of the 19th century provide a glance into another place in time. Visitors

to Antiques by Pamela can delight in pouring over albums that include calling cards, advertising and other antique paper items.

Krampf has been active in the antiques field for more than 16 years, working with buyers doing shows throughout southern Michigan. She received her graduate gemology diploma from the Gemology Institute of America in 1992, has re-

cently returned from a class on pearl grading and plans to study advanced diamond and colored stone grading this summer.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday or by appointment.

## 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 (810) 644-1314.**

### ■ BACCARAT REPRESENTATIVE

Thomas Bastide, designer-director for Baccarat, the prestigious 230-year-old world class manufacturer of fine crystal, will be at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection at Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, to meet customers and personally sign their Baccarat purchases.

### ■ ON VACATION

The Backdoor Gallery on Eight Mile in Farmington will be closed May 21 to September, when it will reopen in a new space in downtown Farmington. The gallery's current exhibit, "The Figure in Cloth - A Celebration of the Doll," continues 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday-Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday to May 21. Call (810) 474-6306.

### ■ TO FRANCE

Christine Unwin of West Bloomfield is conducting a creative art workshop in Paris and southern France June 8-21. Participants will paint in Monet's garden when the poppies and iris are blooming at their peak. Cost, not including air, is \$1,950 for artists and \$1,850 for non-artists. For details, call Unwin at 669-4736, or write her at 6850 Brookshire Drive, West Bloomfield 48322.

### ■ AT THE FESTIVAL

Birmingham resident Flavio Varani, professor of piano at Oakland University, performed recently at the Gilmore International Keyboard

Festival in Kalamazoo in an innovative outreach program called "Keys to Education." The program takes world-class concert pianists and gifted piano students into about 200 southwest Michigan schools to teach students in kindergarten through grade 12 about music.

Varani gave "illustrated concerts" in seven high schools, in which he performed, commented and encouraged audience interaction.

### ■ 'HAIR' APPARENT

The cast of the Detroit production of "Hair," including lead Kent Dalian, who is originally from Plymouth, visited the Bloomfield Township home of Ruth Johnson recently to see paintings by "Hair" co-author Jerome Ragni. Ragni, Johnson's brother, created a series of 123 paintings and sketches before his death of AIDS in 1992. He was driven to paint and sketch on anything from canvas to hospital sheets. Few people had seen the series, titled the "Healing" paintings.