

FRIDAY



First Theatre Guild presents "Oliver," at Knox Auditorium, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham. Call (810) 644-0715 or (810) 646-6568.

SATURDAY



Our Lady Peace opens for Sponge and Candlebox at the Palace of Auburn Hills. (810) 377-0100.

SUNDAY



Third Annual Charity Shirt Box Auction at Millers Artist Supplies in Ferndale features celebrity models, entertainment and refreshments. (810) 352-1080.



Hot tip: Youtheatre presents *Theatreworks/USA's* new musical adaptation of "The Little Prince" 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at Music Hall Center in Detroit. Call (313) 963-2366 for tickets.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1995 • PAGE 1 SECTION B



Fun stuff: Toni Chan of Birmingham, a graduate of Southfield Lathrup High School, paints happiness into birdhouses, flower pots, children's art boxes and stools.

Westacres fair showcases crafty artists

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

SPECIAL WRITER

It's no secret in Toni Chan's neighborhood that she's an "artist." The first clue comes before even entering her Birmingham home. The big, two-story house is painted purple from top to bottom. This vibrant shade of violet is just one of the happy hues coloring Chan's hand-painted flower pots, birdhouses, children's art boxes and stools.

Strong, energetic designs of confetti, celestial stars and fields of flowers create a festive element against a ground of purple, yellow, green, fuchsia and blue that dominate the terracotta flower pots and saucers. Right now, Chan's kitchen is a small cottage industry for all sorts of decorative home accents in various stages of painting.

Chan, who is expecting her second child around the end of November, is taking part in the 21st annual Westacres Arts & Crafts Fair Saturday, Nov. 4, in West Bloomfield.

Chan likes bright colors and surrounds herself with them both indoors and out. Practical as well as spirited, the 33-year-old mother of one finds many innovative uses for the highly colorful flower pots. In the middle of a coffee table in the living room, M & M's brim to the top of one such container.

"I like working in the bright colors because it makes me happy," said Chan, a graduate of Southfield Lathrup High School.

"They're painted both inside and out. I seal them so the paint doesn't die and so you can use them indoors or outdoors."

Chan worked in her family's fortune cookie business for six years after graduating from the University of Michigan with a business degree. As a mental health break, she started taking classes at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association when daughter Linley was 2. She needed time away. Classes in decorative and furniture painting gave her the

Westacres Arts & Crafts Fair

What: The 21st annual show of pottery, jewelry, pottery, folk art, fiber, floral designs, dolls and a dazzling array of holiday items for health and home. Lunch available by master chef Kevin Gaboroski, instructor in the culinary art department at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. For more information, call (810) 363-7357.

Where: 3700 Westacres Drive in West Bloomfield. Follow the signs to the Westacres Clubhouse off Commerce Road, one mile east of Union Lake Road.

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. **Cost:** Admission is \$1, free for senior citizens.

basics. She took it from there.

Now her "Charmed Innocence" business is bringing happiness to others. Functional as well as fun, Chan's flower pots can hold everything from candy to pencils. The delightful accessories can be matched up with her birdhouses if customers so choose to spread cheerfulness in more than one corner of the home.

The ornament-size birdhouses, which come complete with feathered friend, are great for giving as holiday gifts. The art boxes with a chalkboard on one side, a surface for crayon doodles on the other, make perfect traveling companions.

"The children's art boxes are real useful for the car or on planes because it's small enough to stick under the seat," said Chan, who is co-chairing this year's Holiday Art Show at the BBA.

Chan, who says she works better under pressure, sells her handpainted items at about 10 arts and craft shows a year. She is one of 30 artists and crafters exhibiting in the Westacres Arts & Crafts Fair, which is all about community, neighbor helping neighbor and working together.

Taking place in the Westacres Clubhouse at the back of the subdivision, the show reflects the soul of the

neighborhood built on Middle Straits Lake. There's quite a history here.

Developed in 1936 by Oakland Housing Inc. as a low-income project, Westacres provided affordable housing for the seasonally unemployed. One-acre sites were parceled out so that when times were tough owners could live off the land. As a requisite for buying the \$4,400 cinderblock homes, buyers had to sign an agreement to cultivate their land. Excess produce was sold at the community co-op.

Community pride and involvement led to Westacres' volunteers staffing their own fire department and a new branch of the West Bloomfield Public Library housed in the clubhouse. (The clubhouse was an amenity included in the purchase price.)

When owners sought money to update their homes and build additions only to be turned down by the banks, neighbors founded the Westacres Credit Union. In the late '70s when the state of Michigan mandated Oakland Housing to divest its holding in Westacres, that same credit union made it possible for homeowners to buy Oakland Housing's holdings. The Westacres Weekly, a volunteer-staffed newspaper, documented all the changes and the coming-together spirit of the neighborhood through its nearly 60-year history.

"It's a communal neighborhood. It has a very culturally rich history of neighborhood involvement," said Jan Freeman, show publicity person.

The women of the neighborhood had the first Westacres Artist Market featuring fine art and crafts some 27 years ago. The arts and crafts fair followed six years later. Proceeds from the show's ticket sales go toward scholarship programs and beautification projects funded by the Westacres Women's Club.

"It's a really fun, sophisticated show put on by a subdivision, a total volunteer effort," Freeman said. "From framed quilted art to decorated vine door, we have it all."



Painting: Donald Sultan's paintings are rich in surface texture. This one is titled "Pomegranates."

Painter builds canvases

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

SPECIAL WRITER

Donald Sultan admits his paintings, more than likely, were influenced by his early years.

The internationally-known artist worked in construction to put himself through school, first at the University of North Carolina, then the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he earned a master of fine arts degree. Previous to that while growing up in Asheville, N.C., from a young age he painted with his father, who "wanted to be an artist" but owned a tire business instead, to support his family.

"That's probably where the dark, heavy, volumetric grounds came from. Initially in my work, I had been using plastic. The materials (for the far paintings) became a cheap way to make an impact," Sultan said in an interview from his apartment on Paris' Right Bank off the Champs Elysees.

"My paintings are rich in surface texture, very controlled of surface. They're very physical works that lead the way to the reemergence of imagery in abstract art."

Sultan has an exhibition of his drawing and painting at the Hill Gallery in Birmingham. He recently spoke about the continuity of images in his work at a lecture hosted by the Friends of Modern Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Sultan doesn't paint canvases as much as he builds them. Living in

New York, a city that always seems to be under construction with its repetitive sounds of jackhammers taken for granted, cemented the industrial aspect of his work.

Using unconventional materials, he constructs one-, four- and eight-foot paintings on pine frames that project the surfaces several inches from the wall. Layering linoleum, tiles, plaster, tar and finally oil paint with colorations leaning toward the moody side onto the frame, Sultan crafts a structure much like a sculptor manipulating the clay on an armature. Seams between the tiles sometimes show through like a memory of what's underneath leading the viewer to decode the process.

Sultan's admiration for Francisco de Goya, Jackson Pollock, Carl Andre and Eva Hesse is evidenced in Sultan's modernization of the still life Goya's dark and mysterious themes, Pollock's Abstract Expressionism, and Process artists Andre and Hesse's assemblages of commonplace materials. His multidimensional painting bears elements that in totality are architectural in nature as if seemingly torn from the walls of an abandoned house.

Tim and Pam Hill began showing Sultan's work back in 1984. Both like the quality.

"It starts to bring in a historical perspective, ideas connected to sculpture, its beauty being found in

Donald Sultan Drawing and Painting

Where: The Hill Gallery, 407 W. Brown Street at Chester in Birmingham. Call (810) 540-9288.

When: Through Nov. 15. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

MUSIC

Concerts feature variety of works

BY KEELY WYGONIK

STAFF WRITER

There are lots of choices this week for people who enjoy classical music. The Guitar Trio of Paris, Assad Guitar Duo, Cleveland Quartet, and family concerts with emphasis on fun, are among the offerings. Here are highlights:

■ **Musica Viva International Concert Series** is featuring The Guitar Trio of Paris - Michel Sadeanovsky, Toshiki Ishii and Thierry Lacroix at its season-opening concert 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, Smith Theater for the Performing Arts, Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge campus, Farmington Hills. Tickets \$15-\$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (810) 471-7607 or (810) 848-9666.

This award-winning trio has captivated audiences throughout the world, and performed to sold-out audiences. Their repertoire ranges from classics to 20th century music, Latin American, flamenco, and jazz. Saturday's program includes works by Vivaldi, Bach, Corelli, de Falla, Merenguer, Maldonado, and Django Reinhardt.

"As a multicultural arts presenter, Musica Viva provides a stage for cultural encounter of leading artists and companies from all over the globe together with the finest of Michigan talent, presenting a 'world of music at its best,'" said artistic director Ginka Garovara-Ortega.

■ **American Artists Series** is also beginning its 28th season with guitarists - the Brazilian guitar duo, Sergio and Odair Assad, 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 at the Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. Call (810) 881-5044 for more information.

Celebrated around the world for their technical virtuosity, the Assad brothers will present a program that includes works by Fernando Bor, Jean-Philippe Rameau, Darius Milhaud, Sergio Assad, Roland Dyens, Alberto Ginasteri and "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin.

■ **Cleveland Quartet's Farewell Tour** stops at the Chamber Music Society of Detroit, 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at

Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Tickets range from \$5 to \$31. Call (313) 833-3700.

After a career spanning 26 years, the quartet is disbanding following its North American tour. Concert goers can meet members of the quartet at a reception following the concert. Admission to the reception is an additional \$10 and reservations can be made by calling (810) 382-2822.

"After a quarter century, each of us felt a strong need to spend more time with our families," said founding member Paul Katz. Tour proceeds will benefit the Cleveland Quartet Award to be given biennially to exceptional young quartet ensembles.

Sunday's program includes Haydn's "String Quartet, Op. 78, No. 6," "Farewell Quartet," by Corigliano and "String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 61, No. 2" by Brahms.

Lyric Chamber Ensemble and the Farmington Area Philharmonic are presenting family concerts that are sure to entertain and enlighten young audiences.



Talented trio: The Guitar Trio of Paris will open the ninth season of Musica Viva's International Concert series at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus.

■ **Some of DSO's finest players** will team up 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills (14 Mile Road at Telegraph). Presented by the Lyric Chamber Ensemble, and spon-

MUSIC continued inside

PAINTER continued inside