

Artist took time out from life to smell the flowers

BY MARY ROHRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

This is one in a series of profiles of the Farmington Artist Club's Artist in Residence winners. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the program.

As a stay at home mom of four young kids, Eve Samra needed an outlet to call her own.

Her night out consisted of an evening painting class taught by a nun at Madonna College in Livonia. That was more than 30 years and hundreds of canvases ago.

Samra found her calling in the art of painting, in oils, acrylics,

and watercolors. She feels most comfortable working on two foot by two foot sized paintings, a little bigger for watercolors.

"I do it for my own pleasure," she said. "Not for the prizes or the sales. I guess I should promote myself more."

In 1992, Samra was named Farmington Artist in Residence, the most prestigious award bestowed locally in a town with more than its share of extremely talented artists.

"It was extra special," she recalled. "It's one of the things you aspire to. It was a wonder-

ful thing. And it was a surprise."

Samra paints flowers of all kinds, sometimes in the studio of her Farmington home and other times right on the scene. On Saturday, she will paint in a garden during the annual Farmington Garden Walk.

Over the years, Samra has taken many classes and has spent countless hours honing her craft. She still paints at least three days a week. If she works in her studio, she uses photographs she snapped of favorite flowers.

"I like flowers. My paintings leave a lot to the viewer to discover. I point my interpretation, what they mean to me," she said. "So the work is representative, not photographic."

Samra is currently president of the Farmington Artists Club. She has held many positions over the years. She is a charter member of the Farmington Arts Foundation and an arts commissioner.



BOUNTIFUL WORK: Eve Samra, Farmington's artist in residence for 1992, is still an active painter, 30 years after she first picked up a paintbrush.

She has been recognized by the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) and a Southfield painters group in addition to the

local organizations. Her work has appeared in art shows across the metro area.

Two years ago, her husband, Fred, passed away. Their four children are now grown, three are married and one is still in

school. Samra finds painting continues to be a wonderful outlet and important part of her life.

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Club opens garden gates for walkers

The Farmington Garden Club will sponsor its 1996 garden walk "The Garden Palette" on Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine.

Tickets will be available at the Heritage Park visitors center that day for \$5. Children under 5 are admitted free.

This year the walk will showcase garden design and techniques with color and shape combinations creating the theme garden palette. Gardens featured this year will include:

The Smith garden, 30089 Fiddlers Green. Country style landscape with a variety of bog, perennial and rose gardens encircling the home and small greenhouse. Embroiderer Lillian Popich and Bev Weidendorf will demonstrate needlecraft here between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Raju garden, 26329 Northpoint. Spectacular hillside rock garden will greet visitors who can stroll through perennial and rose gardens. Sandra Kamm Shelly will display artistic note cards and demonstrate the art of calligraphy between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Elaine Grohman, Farmington's 1994 artist in residence, will be at the gardens beginning at noon to demonstrate the technique of painting slate garden markers.

Szabla garden, 32034 Thirteen Mile. Quaint qualities of a centennial farmhouse are blended with a combination of colorfully orchestrated perennial, herb and

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shrub gardens. Eve Samra, Farmington's 1992 artist in residence, and Helena Lewicki will be painting these gardens from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hunt garden, 29425 Parkside. Ann Pettersson will create lapel ornaments using bits of vintage lace and crochet, antique and collectible buttons, ribbon snippets and silk flowers from 10 a.m. to noon.

Palechek garden, 35562 Springvale. Manicured but natural English style gardens designed to provide something for everyone. Landscape award winner from 1995 will feature artist Chris Misangyi drawing pen and ink from 10 a.m. until noon.

Raju garden, 23897 Pickett. Charming English cottage garden. Demonstrates miracles can be created in limited space. Artist Patti O'Connor will paint there throughout the day.

Farmington Historical Museum, 33805 Grand River. Brick bordered herb garden, rose beds and flower borders. A fountain gazebo and huge old shade add to the old fashioned characteristics of the museum grounds. Ben Keeper and Jean Draper will demonstrate embroidery on the porch from noon until 2 p.m. Heritage visitor's center is on Farmington Rd. between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

Area residents come out to support the Highland games

Dressed in their Scottish finest, several Farmington area residents will be volunteering at this year's St. Andrew's Annual Highland Games.

C.M. Novess III of Farmington, Lorelei Christy, of Farmington Hills and Dr. Kenneth Cooper, also of Farmington Hills, will all be volunteering.

The oldest Highland games in North America, this year marks the 147th year for the Scottish festival, hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit.

The annual games will be held

on Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Featured at the games will be Highland dance competition, bagpipe competition, traditional Scottish athletics and Scottish food and vendors.

About 10,000 people, both with and without Scottish lineage, attended the 1995 Highland Games.

For more information about the Highland Games, call 313-832-1849.

Ladies auxiliary sponsors July 14 pilgrimage, dinner

The Orchard Lake Schools Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor its annual Marian Pilgrimage on the campus of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's College and St. Mary's Preparatory Sunday, July 14.

Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. in the shrine chapel. Dinner (cost \$10) will be served until 1:30 p.m. The pilgrimage to the Marian

grotto will begin at 3 p.m. Alexandra Cervenak, from Hamtramck St. Florian High School, will crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mother.

On Saturday, July 13, the auxiliary will honor Loresta Dykla of Chicago as Woman of the Year.

For information and reservations, call 810-682-0880.