

FINE ARTS

Photos have dreamlike quality, some are surreal

PERSPECTIVES



MARY KLEMIC

Linn grew up in metropolitan Detroit. Born in 1947, she attended Kingswood School...

The photos featured in the Hillberry show have a dreamlike quality, some bordering on the surreal.

Linn's photos of interiors or exteriors of houses have an air of romance, mystery or poignancy.

In another shot, a teddy bear looks at the camera as if posing

for a portrait, unaware of or ignoring the doll's hand reaching toward it from the side.

Linn captures scenes in which different aspects come together. A sober ranch house, with neatly manicured shrubs, features a garage door that is startlingly adorned with a painting of a snowy landscape.

Other urban or outdoor shots are offbeat and amusing. One features a fish looking almost straight ahead at the viewer, the bowdrie of its tank aren't shown and so the fish appears to be floating in the busy street scene behind it.

Storyteller

You almost could call Robert Colecott a storyteller as well as

an artist.

His canvases convey narratives, sometimes with humor and sometimes with a touch of sadness. The artist draws upon elements of popular culture to make satires of racial and gender stereotypes.

"Some of each - things that I see, things that I have read in the paper," Colecott replied in a telephone interview from Tucson, where he lives.

An exhibit of paintings and works on paper by Colecott continues to July 27 at the G. H. N'Nami Gallery, 161 Townsend in Birmingham (call (810) 642-2700).

Colecott, who was born in 1925, was recently chosen to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale next year. He will be the first black artist to

represent this country in a single-artist show at the Biennale and the first American painter whose work will be shown in the U.S. pavilion since Jasper Johns in 1988.

Many of Colecott's canvases are crowded with figures and vibrant color. Even if just one image is presented, it usually features bold hues that burst with life. It is the subtleties of the paint - the brushstrokes, the swirls - as much as the satire that is meant to attract the viewer.

"Cheese" features a blonde woman with phony smile, striking a glamorous pose, and black people watching in puzzlement. In "Cinema Verite," a black woman is imagining herself in the movies, replacing a white woman in a romantic scene. "Out Where the West Begins" suggests the artist is still in the West while forgetting about peo-

ple there who are struggling. The work shows people with almost impossible "perfect" physiques with other, darker figures muddled together, out of the limelight.

Two scenes of interiors are in simple primary colors and white, black and gray. One features a white person, the other a black person, as if it is to be decided who "belongs." "A Prayer to St. Maurice" shows a saintly figure hovering over a woman in jail, with a half-black, half-white head of Christ in an upper corner (This work might be featured in the Biennale, Colecott said).

"The Jailor" is an ominous offering, with a devil guarding a city that is behind bars. Eyes in the sky above the city suggest a "Surly" or "Driving Me Crazy" shows a couple, the

man's face conveying the rage of a storm about to be unleashed. "Food For Thought" presents a skeleton munching on a hamburger. The work takes on the appearance of a weird landscape, with the skeleton resembling a rock formation, its flowing cloak a sea and shadows in the background a small mountain range. Another piece presents the "alternatives" of money and guns in an imprisoning chain.

A clash of cultures is seen in a work with beer cans and a cigarette disrupting the serene image presented by a native woman with children. "Where Is My Runaway Girl?" features shadowy figures beckoning or writing in dance.

Mary Klemic writes about Oakland County arts. Her phone number is (810) 901-2569; her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Benefit offers preview of 'Art at the Pavilion'

Fran Cook of West Bloomfield and 13 other breast health educator volunteers will be honored at a benefit for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute being held in conjunction with "Art at the Pavilion" July 19-21 at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. Tickets for the opening night benefit and art preview scheduled 5-9 p.m. Friday, July 19 are \$16.

Fran Cook, surviving breast cancer became an empowering

experience. She became a breast health educator to relay knowledge to others about discovering the disease and in her case, the mastectomy, simultaneous reconstruction, and months of chemotherapy that followed.

"When a survivor is standing up there in good health telling you about breast health exams and mammograms, you listen," said Cook.

Admission to "Art at the Pavilion," a fine arts and crafts show that features 115 exhibitors hail-

ing from Texas to Vermont, is \$4. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 20, and Sunday, July 21. Parking is free for the three day event.

For more information or benefit tickets, call 1-(800)-834-9437

One of the artists exhibiting in "Art at the Pavilion" is Sue Walton of Bloomfield Hills. A weaver for 25 years, Walton will bring long coats, short jackets and scarves to the show featuring a wide range of mediums includ-

ing painting, pottery, jewelry, and wood craft.

Other local artists participating in "Art at the Pavilion" include Barbara Abel, photography, and Stan Megdall, glass, West Bloomfield; Carol Fott, stained glass, Troy; Laura Freeman, fiber, and Karen McDavitt, clay, Farmington Hills; Jerry McKay, wood, Franklin; and Bruce Migdal, pastel paintings, formerly of West Bloomfield now living in Guatemala.

JAZZ! Come hear Detroit's finest jazz musicians at the Sounds of Summer Jazz Festival sponsored by the City of Warren!

ART BEAT

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Mary Klemic, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax (810) 644-1314.

STILL WATERS

Luraloe and Jonathan Kiesel of Bloomfield Hills are among four artists participating in "Still Waters," an exhibit taking place July 21-28 at the Schuitmaker residence, 60202 30th St., Lawton, Mich. The opening reception is 2-5 p.m. Sunday, July 21. Regular hours will be 12:30-5:30 p.m. or by appointment. Call (616) 624-5501 or (616) 342-2269 for information.

The Kiesel are inspired by painting directly from landscape.

They have taken several trips abroad and across the United States, painting on location.

"In my recent work, my goal is to capture the way it feels to be at a specific place at that specific time...what might be over the next hill, or how the next wave will break," Jonathan said.

"My paintings are objects commemorating a moment when the scene, the climate and the creative spark within me came together to form an image on paper," Luraloe said.

ORNAMENT COLLECTING

Clara Scroggins, a noted authority on ornament collecting, will talk about ornament collecting and sign autographs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at Eves Hallmark Shop, 13381 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park. Enjoy complimentary snacks and beverages. An original, full-size blue Murray Champion pedal car and an original, full-size pink Kidillac in mint condition will be displayed. Call (810) 399-1180 for information.

Summer '96 PRESENTED BY: THE CHIEFTAINS, WEIRD AL YANKOVIC, MARC WEINER'S WEINERVILLE-LIVE!, TRACY CHAPMAN, KIDS JAM USA TOUR '96

Children's Storytelling Hour! with Jeanne Pichel. Friday, July 19 • 3-4 P.M. Friday, July 26 • 1-1:45 P.M. Friday, August 9 • 1-2 P.M.

The Original Downtown Rochester Sidewalk Sales. Thursday 9:30 am - 9 pm, Friday 9:30 am - 11 pm, Saturday 9:30 am - 6 pm. The Rochester DDA and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers present: FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS! LIVE MUSIC 7-10 PM