

FINE ARTS

B'ham man hits heights with stamp photo

A photograph by Philip Handelman of Birmingham, aviation photographer, author, historian and pilot, has been chosen for a commemorative postage stamp that the Postal Service will issue to recognize the contributions of the Department of the Air Force.

The stamp will be issued Sept. 18, 1997, the 50th anniversary of the Air Force as a separate military service. The stamp's design was formally unveiled at a Pentagon press briefing Dec. 5.

Handelman's photograph was

selected from among many that were reviewed in a nationwide competition. It features the famed Air Force Thunderbirds, the service's official aerial demonstration team, in a classic four-ship diamond formation. The team, flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon jets that are emblazoned in a special patriotic motif, is performing this dramatic maneuver in Handelman's photo.

"The stamp's design depicts the Air Force's air power mission along with the pride and profes-

sionalism of its service members," said Sheila Widnall, Secretary of the Air Force. "We are honored to be selected as a stamp subject celebrating America—its heroes, history and humanity."

"It honors the men and women who dedicated their careers—and sometimes gave their lives—to protect our country and preserve our freedom," Larry Spenkes, senior vice president of the Postal Service, said of the stamp.

Handelman has had a lifelong love affair with aviation. He has pursued his interest in airplanes and flying since his first flight in a Piper Cub at age 12. Handelman has been a licensed pilot for more than 25 years. He owns and flies two restored aircraft of military lineage, including a utility airplane configured as an Air Force U-17C.

The author of 10 aviation books and many dozens of aviation articles, Handelman is a recognized aviation authority. For many years he has photographed a wide range of aircraft and has received numerous awards for his published work.

In addition, he is president of Handelman Filmworks, a TV

production company whose programs have aired nationally on

PBS. Handelman and his wife, Mary, divide their time between

their home and a private airstrip in the nearby countryside.



Soaring tribute: This commemorative postage stamp honoring the Air Force features a photo by Philip Handelman of Birmingham.

Watercolorist from page E1

Her latest paintings are from the "Gallery Dilemma" series. Locations ranging from a San Francisco gallery to Urban Park in downtown Detroit produce illusions and a glimmer of the surreal as Joppich creates questions about what's real and what's not. Reference material from the San Francisco dilemma is incorporated into the bottom of the work.

"Dramatic effects and vivid use of color are very important in my work. Watercolor is certainly as powerful as oil with the added benefit of luminosity. Even when the color is intense, you sense that light under-

neath," said Joppich, who applies paint in a single layer rather than the several it takes to produce the technique known as glazing.

An instructor as well as an artist, Joppich has a long list of credentials. She earned her bachelor of fine arts degree at Marygrove College and later studied for a master's at Wayne State University. Her paintings have been accepted in more than 100 regional and national exhibits including the prestigious Watercolor USA at the Springfield Missouri Art Museum. A one woman show at

the Flint Institute of Arts Founders Gallery and inclusion in several Michigan Watercolor Society traveling exhibitions are among her other accomplishments.

Locally, Joppich is best known as an instructor at the Visual Arts Association of Livonia where she's taught watercolor since 1978. Previous to that, she was a drawing instructor at the University of Detroit Architectural School, taught painting at Marygrove College, and initiated the art program at Benedictine High School.

Besides teaching her ever-pop-

ular "Creative Approach to Watercolor" at VAAL, Joppich organizes and conducts international painting trips for artists to such exotic locations as the inactive volcanic island of Saba near St. Martin's. Her pride and joy, however is curating the annual invitational at Joppich's Bay Street Gallery and hosting Camp Edie, a series of weekend painting seminars for women on the Leelanau Peninsula.

"While I'm in the gallery I surround myself with artists' work that I admire and feed on. The goal is to show some of the best artists in Michigan," said Joppich.

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A random drawing will be held January 27 and 15 lucky winners will each receive 4 tickets to see **SESAME STREET LIVE's "LET'S PLAY SCHOOL"** show appearing at The Fox Theatre, February 2nd at 2 p.m. Tickets will be mailed out to the winners. A list of winners will be printed in the paper on Thursday, Jan. 30.

COLORING ACTIVITY RULES:

1. All entries must be submitted with this official form.
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