

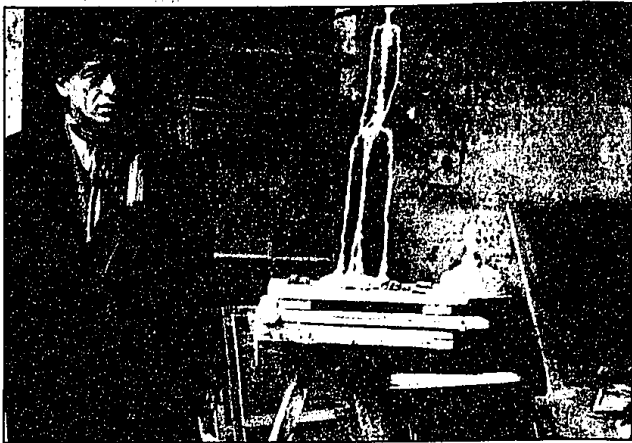
Modernism from page C1

apartments in post-war Paris. In gesture and expression, Sima's subjects appear strikingly similar to the spirit of their art work. For instance, Chagall has the inquisitive delight of his playful paintings. And Le Corbusier appears as complex behind his thick round glasses as his roving abstractions. Meanwhile, the burly Leger looks as resilient as his mechanical, machine-like canvases, and Calder appears as disheveled as his floating sculptures. Yet for sheer intensity, there's no comparison to Picasso's wide-

Wide-eyed: Pablo Picasso holds an owl given to him by photographer Michel Sima. A series of photos of Picasso are included in Sima's book, "Picasso at Antibes."



eye expression, Matisse's somber steadiness, Duchamp's guarded irreverence or Giacometti's tortured angst. Gazing into the artists' stark studios is a reminder of the socio-political condition in which they worked. Fifty years ago, the central issues of the day didn't pertain to international trade or sex scandals but related to sovereignty, freedom and morality. Rampant anxiety was the common feeling amid the horror of war, concentration camps and Hiroshima. Through the collective works of the artists who land in front of Sima's lens, the spirit of the time has been portrayed. Not necessarily on canvas or in sculpture. But simply in their expressive faces. Before the onset of World War II and the German occupation of France, Sima mingled in the Parisian avant garde with the likes of poet Paul Eluard, sculptor Constantin Brancusi, Gertrude Stein and Picasso. During the war, Sima was incarcerated at Auschwitz. After his release, he moved back to Paris, where in 1946 he shared the space with Picasso. Encouraged by Picasso, Sima documented the progress of the great artist's paintings. A photo of Picasso holding an owl has become a legendary anecdote. Reportedly, one day Sima brought Picasso a wounded owl. Picasso, who had cared for pigeons when he was young, examined the bird, then set its broken limb. Meanwhile, the owl fought and bit Picasso. In Sima's photo, Picasso holds the plaid bird in his hands. The same hands that reinvented art to reflect the spirit of the times.



Critical eye: Swiss sculptor Alberto Giacometti sizes up his characteristic thin figure with slender armatures. Michel Sima took the photo in Giacometti's Paris studio.

Reinvention from page C1

current play, "What the Butler Saw," offended some subscribers even before the curtain went up on the risqué farce. The criticism is part of the growing pains. "I'm not interested in producing plays that reinforce prejudices," said Sherman. A fast-changing world For a director who spent 13 years in New York City, and stints with Seattle Repertory, Center Stage in Baltimore and the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, metro Detroit poses a conundrum. After three years of offering the most diverse selection of plays in the theater's 30-year history, Sherman wonders: Has anyone been paying attention?



Geoffrey Sherman The answer may have more to do with the fundamental organi-

zational shifts that have redefined American business in the last decade, said Sherman. In common parlance, the emphasis on service, accountability and quality has seeped into the arts. Presenting quality theater is only part of the equation. Responsiveness and outreach initiatives to "customers" are key. Art groups have to act like entrepreneurs, said Sherman. Patrons and ticket buyers are customers looking for choices. Building a community In the last several months, Sherman has hired associate director Dobra Wicks to oversee Meadow Brook's outreach program, and Karim Alwari as playwright-in-residence and literary

manager. Alwari taught at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in England, and served as artistic director of the New Play Centre in Vancouver. Until Sherman arrived, the common view was that Meadow Brook had become too cliquish and wasn't creating new artists, said Wicks. "Ten years ago the audience was more homogenized," she said. "We're trying to make the theatre more accessible rather than appearing elitist." To broaden their appeal, Meadow Brook is serving as diplomat and educator. In the first month on the job, Alwari has met with several local community theater groups, and has set up a playwrights open house. Long-term plans could include new collaborations with local arts groups and a playwright development process similar to the New Play Centre's system. In addition, Alwari has adapted two short stories of William Faulkner for Meadow Brook's newly formed touring ensemble, which in early March will begin a six-week state tour to schools. "For theater to grow, we've got to get students interested," said Alwari. "They must see that theater is related to their curriculum. You can't separate culture and education." David Hare, the English playwright, predicted that theaters would have to reinvent themselves every five years to maintain and attract new audiences, said Alwari. "Wherever you want to slot this theater today, we won't be there in five years," he said. For Meadow Brook Theatre, reinventing itself might become routine.

Michigan Department of Treasury, LPS  
351 (3-97)

Formally L-2216  
**TAX SALE NOTICE**  
This notice is issued under authority of M.C.L.,  
Section 211.63, as amended.

On May 5, 1998, the Oakland  
County Treasurer will be selling delinquent real property  
tax liens on lands which have unpaid taxes for the year  
1995. The sale will be held at the county seat in  
Pontiac  
The property descriptions and total taxes to be offered at  
the tax sale will be published for three weeks in the  
Rochester Eccentric  
on 03/05/1998, 03/12/1998, 03/19/1998  
Copies of the tax sale publication may be obtained by  
contacting the newspaper shown above.

Douglas B. Roberts  
State Treasurer

Where Can You  
Satisfy Your Appetite  
For Romance?  
Right Here. Make any weekend a  
romantic escape with your sweetheart. With our Lelli's Dinner  
Package you'll enjoy a luxurious two-room suite, complimen-  
tary prepared-to-order breakfast each morning and beverage  
reception each evening, a seven course dinner for  
two at the renowned Lelli's Inn, and trans-  
portation to and from dinner. For reservations,  
call your professional travel agent, 1-800-HILTONS, or  
the Auburn Hills Hilton Suites at 248-334-2222.

2300 Featherstone Road  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
248-334-2222

Auburn Hills  
**Hilton**  
SUITES

BBAA  
40  
YEARS  
ART IN LIVING LIVES

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association  
A Citizen Supported Art Center  
presents

The 17th Annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition

Juror: Larry Rivers

Opening Reception and Awards Presentation  
Friday, March 6, 1998 at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association  
6 p.m. Champagne Reception for Benefactors  
7 p.m. Dinner presented by Big Rock Chop and Brew House  
8 p.m. Awards presentation followed by dancing to the  
music of the Larry Rivers' Climax Jazz Band

Tickets \$100/Benefactor and \$60/Friend  
Call (248) 644-0866

Exhibit will be on display March 7 - 27, 1998 and available for purchase.

1516 South Cranbrook Road, Birmingham, MI 48009  
Hours Monday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

1998 ANTIQUE &  
CONTEMPORARY  
\*WINTER ART TILE FAIR\*

A One Day Festival Of Ceramic Tiles Sponsored by  
**PEWABIC POTTERY**  
Sunday, March 1, 1998 • 5:00 p.m.  
Admission \$5.00

St. George Cultural Center  
1515 Woodward • Bloomfield Hills  
(1/4 mile North of Square Lake)  
Tile Makers, Tile Artists, Dealers and  
Collectors from the U.S. & Canada  
will display & sell a large selection of  
ceramic art tiles. Historic & fine  
handcrafted contemporary tiles,  
tablets, trivets, planters and other tile  
items will be available at this one  
day only indoor event.

- Free appraisal services
- Door prizes throughout the day
- Tile installation demonstrations
- Silent auction to benefit the  
Pewabic educational program

For information call  
Pewabic Pottery at  
**313-822-0954**