

Browse among the art at shows in Plymouth

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Producers of two art shows in Plymouth hope to interest families into taking a slight detour from their traditional fall outing to browse through the booths of hundreds of artists and craftsmen and to enjoy live entertainment and children's art activities Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 12-13.

Carolyn Simons is issuing a

special invitation to view the acrylic paintings of northern Michigan scenes by Tom LeGault (Plymouth), pottery by Judy Buresh (Garden City), and the dying art of English smocking by Irma Guest (Bloomfield Hills) at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Artists and Craftsmen Show. Last year's attendance peaked on Saturday due to Princess Diana's funeral. Simons hopes to recoup

profits lost in 1997 by attracting new visitors to the indoor show featuring nearly 100 artists and craftsmen this year. Proceeds from the show, now celebrating its 27th year, fund arts council programs in the community.

"People know what to expect when they come to our show," said Simons. "It affords people the opportunity to view and enjoy art works and it can be a family experience."

Katherine (Kidston) Renberg thinks her sterling silver and brass earrings, necklaces, brooches, and bracelets are a great way to create a look for yourself whether it's fancy-free or business like. From swirling lines to no nonsense geometric designs, Renberg's jewelry relays a message about the woman. Some of the pieces accented with jade, pink quartz, citrine, blue tiger eye, and amethyst add dazzle. A peek at Renberg's work bench reveals the sparkle she's designed for the holidays. Sterling silver Christmas tree lapel pins decorated with jade beads cheer in the season.

"I think it's a great statement about how that person likes to express themselves," said Renberg. "It says the most about a person in addition to their clothing."

Renberg first became interest-

ed in jewelry in a class at Plymouth-Canton High School. She's learned a lot since then much of it by exhibiting in the arts council's show and the West- taces art market. In West Bloomfield, in April, she gathered more information about customers' tastes in the Michigan Metal Exhibition at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.

Her years as an interior designer influence her jewelry today as does a love for the Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau movements. Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, Louise Nevelson's sculpture and Matisse's paper cut outs can be seen in her designs.

"It sharpened my eye and has given me a good idea of balance, what's in proportion," said Renberg.

Family festival

Hold in conjunction with the Plymouth Fall Festival, the Artists and Craftsmen Show is one of the many activities families will enjoy. The 43rd annual Fall Festival features musical entertainment, a variety of food booths, children's games and rides, a pancake breakfast, chicken dinner, Polish and Irish dancing, and an auto show 3-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m. to

10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13 in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-1540.

Although the Village Potters Guild is not part of the Artists and Craftsmen Show, it's worth the time just to stop by their booth located in front of the Plymouth Historical Museum on Main Street at Church. Functional and non-functional clay bowls, tiles, vases, sculptures, and jewelry by members of the nonprofit potters cooperative are reasonably priced and are excellent choices for one-of-a-kind gifts.

Village Painters

A jolly cupboard painted with Norwegian Rosemaling is the first sign in Chris Pegg's home that the Plymouth Township artist will decorate anything with a surplus.

Pegg recently invited members of the Village Painters to her home to plan the third annual Painters Potpourri show of hand-painted tin ware, baskets, jewelry, furniture, ornaments, paintings, bird houses, Sankas, and angels Friday-Saturday, Sept. 11-12, in Plymouth.

Maggie Walsh, Ruth Schwarz, Fran White, Maureen Van Buhler, and Pegg originally met at

the former Brellwig's decorative painting shop in Plymouth. So it's no surprise the women are such good friends. They share a love of tale and decorative painting.

Pegg took an adult education class in Grosse Pointe 20 years ago and hasn't put down her brush since. She achieved the height of decorative painting success when she earned the title of Certified Decorative Artist in 1989. The title is reserved for artists who've achieved a level of expertise.

"I enjoy decorative painting because there are so many different things you can do, so many different surfaces to paint on," said Pegg. Village Painters president.

Pegg exhibits a country cabinet and watercolors of a purple cone flower in the show set up to resemble a boutique. Instead of individual artists' booths, items will be separated into categories such as seasons and holidays. The price range for styles from traditional folk art to contemporary and trompe l'oeil ranges from \$5 (jewelry and ornaments) to \$200 (furniture) with an average of \$20 to \$40.

In addition to the hundreds of items for sale at the show, a raffle will be held for a hand-painted large trunk, mirror and chair.

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event shortly after she was hired last September.

"Our thought is 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"

With 300 artists from around the United States representing 18 media categories, "Art & Apples" is the ultimate eclectic art fest, said Anne Blatee of Rochester Hills, newly named executive director at Paint Creek.

"The appeal is that we have a selection of very affordable art. Indeed, the average selling price for artwork is \$245. But based on a recent economic study, the art, food and music is a drawing card."

While nearly half of Paint

Creek's annual revenue comes from "Art & Apples," the economic benefits from the two-day festival extend beyond the art center and artists.

Approximately \$2.6-million was generated at last year's festival, according to an Oakland University economic impact analysis conducted by professors Kevin Murphy and Ronald Tracy. The revenue generated includes money spent on lodging, food and art at the festival and nearby restaurants.

Crossing fingers

Two years ago, Blatee recalled, it rained. Deluge was more like

it. Actually, it came down so hard that mud shoes were required to traverse the sloppy Rochester Municipal Park.

Last year's attendance was also slightly below expectations because some people were perched in front of their TVs watching the funeral for Diana, Princess of Wales.

When asked about the forecast for this year, Blatee holds up her crossed fingers.

In recent years, corporate sponsorships have helped to cover operational expenses at both art festivals. But the fingers-crossed reliance on good weather for a big turnout underscores that both "Art & Apples"

and "Art in the Park" still depend on the winds of fate, and spending whims of art connoisseurs.

"A lot of nonprofits are turning to art fairs to raise money," said Clark of Common Ground, who often wears a lapel pin, "Art Save Lives."

A couple of years ago, few people would have seen the connection. But with the popularity of "Art & Apples" and "Art in the Park" hardly waning, that's obviously changing.

Said Clark: "The nature of our art fair is to help people."

And that's as good of a reason as any to pray for sunshine and a warm front.



THIS THURS. • 7:30 PM

PRINCESS & CLAY WALKER

w/ Dixie Chicks

Lawn Seats \$12.50



THIS SAT. • 7:30 PM

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL McDONALD

Lawn Seats \$12.50

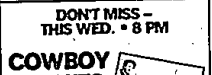


NEXT SUN. & TUES. • 7 PM

AEROSMITH

w/ Monster Magnet

1st Show / Sold Out



DON'T MISS - THIS WED. • 8 PM

COWBOY JUNKIES

w/ Over the Rhine

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w/ Dixie Chicks

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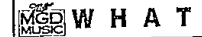
Lawn Seats Only \$12.50

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THIS SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 • 7:30 PM

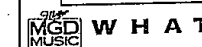
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ART IN THE PARK



Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, September 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(New Sunday Accessibility Hour: 9-10AM for physically challenged)

Shain Park, Birmingham
(South of Maple, West of Woodward)

Over 170 Artists

Presented to Benefit:
Common Ground Sanctuary's 24 hour crisis line & community service programs.

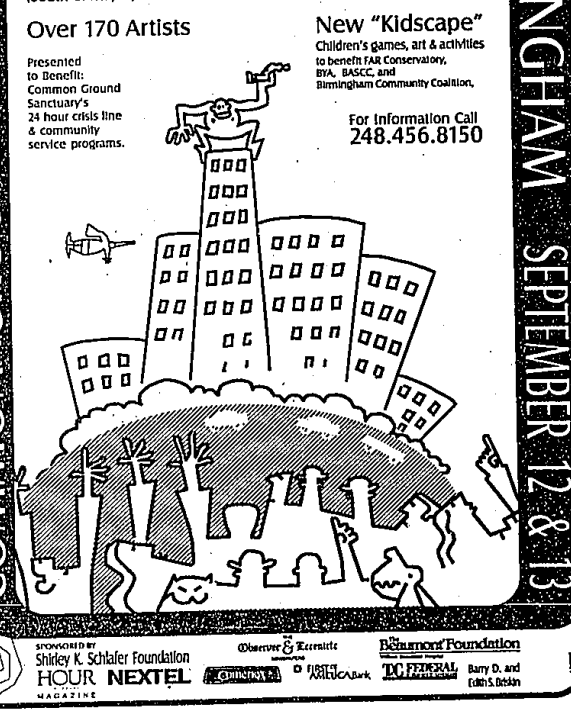
One of the Top Rated Shows Nationwide

Free Admission
Plus 2 Hours Free Parking in City Parks

Entertainment & Refreshments

New "Kidscape"
Children's games, art & activities to benefit FAY Conservatory, BYA, BASCC, and Birmingham Community Coalition.

For Information Call **248.456.8150**



Yova

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it is for performers to present themselves well.

"They never teach you how to market yourself in school."

She clears her throat. Point well taken. Her voice shifts gear.

Through a crossroad

Today, as executive director of the Lyric Chamber Ensemble based in Southfield, Yova has had to do her share of talking. Arranging performance schedules, seeking publicity, selling tickets and financial backers - the terminal pursuit for any arts group without a large endowment.

It's not that Yova has grown tired of her administrative duties. It's just that she'd rather be singing.

And if you've ever heard her perform with various community orchestras, you'd want it that way, too.

Changes are coming readily.

This past summer, Yova married Thomas Sheets, conductor of the University Musical Society Choral Union in Ann Arbor.

They met at an audition. Yova got the part.

"He said he heard me sing four notes and knew he'd hire me," she said.

"It was another six notes, he said, before he decided to marry me."

Yova laughs long and hard.

When you understand your voice, the secret of your life seems to unfold itself.

Yova's marriage to Sheets has given her further encouragement and renewed her desire to perform.

She's passing through another crossroad.

"Maybe I had to go through some things to make me the singer that I am today."

Yova can sense the shift in the road. Aural nirvana. At last. There's no holding back. The angels have company.

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