

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

## Express yourself through the arts

Everyone I talk with lately has either gone or is going to see the Vincent van Gogh exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts. While I highly recommend the exhibit (I've seen it twice), there's so much more going on in the arts.

Whether you're interested in watching a multi-disciplinary performance spectacle or learning to better express your own ideas by attending a writing workshop, the arts will uplift your spirit and give you insight into the human condition.

Here's a guide to what's going on. There's no excuse not to broaden your mind through the arts.

### Women's Historical Center

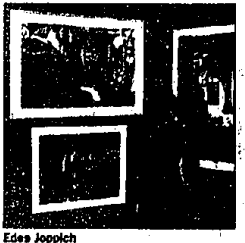
Take a trip to Lansing to see the paintings of Farmington Hills artist Edee Joppich and learn more about the achievements of Michigan women at the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame. Joppich is proud to have a one-woman show of her large-scale watercolor paintings at the center, which offers exhibits portraying the lives and history of Michigan women. An instructor at the Visual Arts Association of Livonia for more than 25 years, Joppich shows four works from her "Gallery Dilemma" series. The series started six years ago after a trip to a San Francisco gallery where she became intrigued by a group of large acrylic sculptures.

"It's an honor to be asked to exhibit my work there," said Joppich, the 1978 Artist-in-Residence chosen by the Farmington Area Arts Commission. "And from time to time, it's important to see your work all together."

This is the 31st one-person show by Joppich. A nationally known artist, she's had work accepted into more than 100 exhibits. When not entering her work into competitions, she organizes week-long painting workshops for women on the Leelanau Peninsula and trips to exotic destinations to create art on location. The next Artesano departs for Mexico Dec. 2. The six-day trip costs \$1,400 and includes round-trip airfare. For more information, call Joppich at (248) 476-1528.

The Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame is a project of the Michigan Women's Studies Association, an academic-professional organization founded in 1973 on the campus of Michigan State University. Located in the historic Cooley-Hazo House, the nonprofit center opened in 1987 to give visibility to Michigan women. Changing exhibits feature topics such as the important role of Latino women. Traveling exhibits

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Edee Joppich

### Art Events

- Artful Edee Joppich exhibits work through Sunday, April 2, at the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, 213 W. Main, Lansing. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; until 4 p.m. Saturday; and 2-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$2.50, \$2 senior citizens, \$1 students. Call (517) 464-1880.
- "Border Crossings," a multi-layered arts concert, 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, in Rockhewn Auditorium in Ann Arbor. Free. Call (734) 747-8885.
- Series of writer's workshops and readings begin Wednesday, March 29, in room 200 of the Liberal Arts building at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Schoolcraft, between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia. Call Arthur Lindenberg at (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5292.



PHOTOS BY TOM ELIAS

Multi-media work: Barbara Selinger dances "Virtual Voices," a piece she choreographed in 1999.

### DETROIT DANCE COLLECTIVE

**WHAT:** The dance company celebrates its 20th anniversary with a gala concert. **WHEN:** 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8. Champagne reception for patrons begins 6:30 p.m. **WHERE:** Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. **TICKETS:** \$18.50 concert; \$35 concert and reception for patrons. No charge for afterglow following performance. Call (313) 963-2366.

### RELATED EXHIBITS:

■ A 20-year photographic retrospective of the Detroit Dance Collective by Tom Kramer continues through Saturday, April 15 at the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave. The image document dancers in rehearsal, performances, and at classes/demonstrations in metro Detroit schools. Also on display are historic costumes by Livonia designer Bernadine Vica.



Moving piece: The Detroit Dance Collective perform the 1999 "Travelers on the Road" at a gala concert to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

## 20 YEARS OF DANCE

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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When the lights go down on the Music Hall stage in a little less than two weeks, Barbara Selinger and Paula Kramer will be celebrating in the wings. The co-founders of the Detroit Dance Collective have seen their share of ups and downs over the last 20 years but now they've reached the pinnacle of their careers. Their ensemble of nine gives a Gala Concert Saturday, April 8.

### Sharing a dream

Ever since their days as students in the dance department at Wayne State University, Kramer and Selinger, a Farmington Hills resident, shared a dream to form a modern dance company to have a platform for their own choreography. Together with Anita Surma Saganski and Sue Ellen Darr-Moustapha, they established the Detroit Dance Collective. An ambitious company from the beginning, it gave 15 performances in schools and other venues the first year.

"I think the reason why we're so successful is because we're a full teaching company and because we're very persistent," said Kramer, a Huntington Woods resident. "We sense where the pendulum is swinging. We're like sentinels. We're always watching."

The company spent the first few years based at the Midwest Dance Center in Oak Park until they were offered a residency at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak where they worked for the next 14 years. After outgrowing the space three years ago, they moved to the Detroit's downtown theater district where they're housed inside Central United Methodist Church on Central Circus Park.

### Vision

"We have a vision that has to do with creativity and communication," said Selinger. "A lot of the works are influenced by visual art. I feel choreographers are like visual artists. We just use a different canvas."

The Gala Concert to celebrate their 20th anniversary, like their vision for dance, includes everything from full-out fun pieces like the 1990 "Zydeco Song" to deeply introspective works and strong social commentary. Nearing the end of the program, the Detroit Dance Collective will premiere Selinger's newest piece, "Passing Through." Set to the music of J.S. Bach, it features dancers creating pathways through space and intersecting one another in a continuing journey of intricate dance patterns.

"We wanted to represent ourselves with some of the best pieces we've choreographed," said Selinger.

A painting by Mel Rosas inspired the first selection on the program back in 1994. Choreographed by Kramer to the music of Peter Gabriel and Steve Reich, "La Puer-



Celebrating 20 years: Paula Kramer co-founded the Detroit Dance Collective with Barbara Selinger.

ta" features a set piece designed by the Detroit artist. Kramer thinks Rosas' painting mirrors the Detroit Dance Collective.

"It's drawn directly from Mel Rosas' painting, 'La Puerta,' which means the door," said Kramer. "He frequently features arches in his work. Many of our pieces are about going through passages or doorways. We're always growing and changing, always looking for new doors to step through."

### Newer pieces

"Virtual Voices" is one of the newer pieces choreographed by Selinger, who also dances the work with company members Anh Nguyen of Windsor and Karen Leighton, Farmington Hills. The multi-layered composition includes the photography of Anna McCarthy in a video edited by Selinger. The work was made possible by a Creative Artist Grant awarded by ArtServe through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"I'd visualized the dance for several years and wanted to coordinate movement on screen and on stage," said Selinger. "It combines virtual movement with the actual movement on stage."

Kramer was inspired to create "Travelers on the Same Road" (1992) after viewing Picasso's "Guernica" and Ernst Barlach's bronze sculpture "The Avenger" at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The title for "Travelers" is from a Hebrew prayer of mourning. The dance serves as a warning - heed the past or "ethnic cleansing" will continue in the future.

"It's a strong anti-war piece," said Kramer, who will receive a Jewish Women in the Arts award from the Jewish Community Center on Sunday, March 26. "It's about more than a Holocaust piece. The killing continues as we've seen

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## CELEBRATION

# Fine arts festival will help your 'spirit soar'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Marsha Miller is all for computers and time-saving devices speeding us through our daily lives, but being in an "instant mode" leaves little room for enriching our spirits through the visual arts, music and dance.

As chairman of the music and fine arts committee at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, Miller is doing something about that by bringing all three to the community in a celebration of the visual and performing arts Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2.

"Let Your Spirit Soar" will feature an art exhibit, concerts, children's workshops and speakers, and except for a Saturday evening concert by the gospel group "Kingdom Heirs," all activities are free.

The choir from Plymouth-Canton Schools' Tonda Elementary performs 2 p.m. Saturday.

"Music is an international language," said Miller. "I believe the arts are the language of the soul. The weekend of art is an experience our church can bring to society and our community. It makes us whole human beings and helps us get in touch with our spirits."

The idea for the weekend arts extravaganza came about as a way of expanding on the church's musical activities.

Please see FESTIVAL, C1



Painted poppies: Marjorie Hogan's "Chellstorp" is one of 18 artists exhibiting work as part of a celebration of the visual and performing arts.