

Glass

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showing Americans influenced by Italian technique and Italians who brought these techniques to more of a high art."

Janet Torno visited the studio of one of those artists, Lucio Bubacco, on a trip to Italy and never forgot the magic of his lampworked sculptures. If possible, she'd show glass annually at the art center where she's executive director. This year's exhibition holds special meaning.

"I'm very interested in Italy and my husband blows glass," said Torno. "I spent several hours at Lucio Bubacco's studio and saw his elaborate lampwork created over a torch. He was an altar boy so that influence comes out in his work."

"The show is very exciting. We approached the Italian consulate to work with us. It's something special to kick off glass month. It's a big thing in this area. People come from everywhere to see the glass."

It's everywhere

Glass is everywhere in Michigan in April including the Janice Charach Epstein Gallery at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Curator Sylvia

"I work in glass for two reasons - its physical properties, the process of working with glass is amazing, the way it heats up, moves and cools down, how it looks - its transparency quality, how it reflects light."

Andrew Madvin
Birmingham resident

Nelson presents a spectacular show by five Michigan artists. Beautiful is the only word to describe Janet Kelman's Violet Anemone large-scale bowl. Stan Megdall fashions blown glass into vases that look like whimsical figures. Andrew Madvin titles his sculptures of hands, reaching, grabbing at some unseen terror as memories. Madvin shows work on the same theme along with large-scale glass flowers at Orchard Lake Framing and Gallery. Since graduating from College for Creative Studies two years ago, he's

exhibited work at the Birmingham Temple juried art show in Farmington Hills as well as Art & Apples in Rochester. Even though he took jewelry classes at Groves High School in Birmingham it wasn't until studying with CCS craft department chairman Herb Babcock that Madvin fell in love with glass. Babcock shows work in Habatat's Invitational.

"My work takes two different directions," said Madvin, a Birmingham resident. "My mixed media sculpture addresses serious issues by using metaphors that create a personal dialogue while the large-scale flowers are more playful and uplifting, and celebrate life."

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April Wagner couldn't agree more about the excitement of working with glass. She and partner Jason Ruff throw open their epiphany studio in Pontiac for glass blowing demonstrations Saturday, April 6. Their vessels and sculpture will be on exhibit with 200 other glass works at Orchard Lake Framing and Gallery in Orchard Lake. Call (248) 681-7447 for more information.



Gorgeous glass: Vessels like this one created by April Wagner and her partner Jason Ruff at epiphany studio in Pontiac will be on exhibit with 200 other glass works at Orchard Lake Framing and Gallery.

"Glass is the most amazing medium in that you're always being taught by it. It's hot and fast. You think you know it all but then you discover something new," said Wagner, a graduate of College for Creative Studies. After 26 years, Don Schneider is still discovering new things about the molten material at York Street Glassworks studio and gallery in Plymouth. It's



Italian influence: Lucio Bubacco works similar to this one will be on display at Habatat Galleries and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center during Michigan Glass Month.

there he produces vessels, paperweights, and the lampworked millefiori beads which he exhibits internationally. Schneider worked as a glass blower at Greenfield Village in the mid 1970s, and knows how important it is to educate the public about the medium.

"We have to teach people what glass is. When they come in I try to ascertain their level of knowl-

edge about glass. They get pretty excited when they look around and see glass being made," said Schneider.

"Glass has gone from its craft days to high end art and back. Now it's everywhere in between. Artists are fusing and slumping. Now there's a greater awareness of the material. There's much more competition but that's good because there's more creativity."

Chomin

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viola with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for 22 years, the Huntington Woods resident "always wanted to play quartet music" such as the Mozart, Hindemith and Brahms on the Vivace program.

Mellow's wife Edith Digory teaches voice at Oakland University and helped land a position on the artistic series there. In addition to performing two concerts a season, the quartet plays whenever and wherever they can including at the Ambassador's residence in Madrid during the DSO's Tour in October.

"I'm getting to play music I don't get to play in the DSO," said Mellow, a Birmingham Temple member. "There are great string quartets by Beethoven I haven't played. The quartet gives me the opportunity to work directly with other musicians to decide what we'd like to play."

Just for fun

"I'm doing this for fun not money. The Hindemith I played in college. It's music that I love. There's not a note I would change. While Mozart is standard with classical music lovers, they usually don't have even a passing acquaintance with his chamber music. The Brahms - most know he wrote quartet but haven't heard it before. It's gor-

geous. Written in 1923, the Hindemith has dissonance and rhythms unfamiliar to people but very accessible. I don't know anyone who has heard it who hasn't been taken with it."

Hai Xin Wu is looking forward to the concert with quartet members Mellow, Kennedy, and Sarah Cleveland who was principal cellist with the Toledo Symphony for 13 years. Wu immigrated to the U.S. from China specifically to study violin at the Manhattan School of Music in New York. A member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra since 1995, Wu, in his spare time, coaches the string section for the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, the DSO's youth training ensemble.

"The Sonnet Quartet is a chance to play with very good players," said Wu, an Ann Arbor resident who recently performed in New York with the Jupiter Chamber Players. "Chamber is give and take. You have to talk about it and reach a consensus about what you're going to do. Some of the best work is chamber music. It's a joy."

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