

CHOMIN

FROM PAGE B1

Arbor every year for the last 25 and still admire the creativity found in the four fairs. Linda, an artist, and Harvey, a Livonia dentist, arrived at 10:15 a.m. and planned to stay until about 7 p.m. but were taking a break at Rendezvous.

"We're here as tourists," said Zalla, who had a show at Exhibit A Gallery in Birmingham before it closed. She has exhibited in many galleries and has work in the collection of the City of Livonia. On Sept. 25, Zalla lectures on the psychology of color at Temple Beth El in West Bloomfield.

"I love it. I come because I think it's important to support artists. First a work has to get my attention, be riveting, something high quality, and then it's a personal I can't live without that."

Cat lovers were going crazy at Alice Frank's booth. The West Bloomfield artist mixes media such as enamel and metal to create whimsical felines and "people" displayed in acrylic boxes.

Frank most recently exhibited her work in Fine Art at Meadow Brook.

"I like to make people smile," said Frank. "We need more time in our life to smile. I donate a portion of the proceeds to the homeless. I call my creations my people. Every people needs a home."

You could tell Frank was having a good time telling visitors about her work.

'I like to make people smile. We need more time in our life to smile. I donate a portion of the proceeds to the homeless. I call my creations my people. Every people needs a home.'

Alice Frank
Artist

"The Ann Arbor Art Fairs are very vibrant and kinetic," said Frank, "and you hope you can live through the four days."

Stan Megdall was wondering how he could make it through those same four days with half his glass art being stolen the day before. (See related story). A real trooper, the West Bloomfield artist dug up some of the work he had around the house to sell in Ann Arbor. But his new figurative work was what he'd hope to introduce to fair-goers.

There's no doubt he'll be blowing a lot of glass to prepare for his next eight shows including Art, Beats & Eats Aug. 30 to Sept. 2 in Pontiac (call (248) 334-4600) and the Spotlight

Art Show to benefit Meadow Brook Theatre Sept. 6-8 in downtown Rochester.

For more information about the Spotlight show held in conjunction with Art & Apples, call (588) 781-2744.

"I'm staying in the vessel mode," said Megdall who earlier found it hard to talk because of his loss but couldn't resist the subject that's become his life's work.

"I'm stinking with figurative, more gesture."

Have an interesting idea for a story? Call Observer & Eccentric arts reporter Linda Ann Chomin at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@ee. homecomm.net

Thieves nab artist's glass works from trailer at annual art fairs

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Stan Megdall wasn't having a good morning on opening day of the Ann Arbor Art Fairs. Half of the West Bloomfield artist's work was in his red Cargo Mate trailer which was stolen some time between Tuesday evening July 16 and Wednesday morning July 17. It was padlocked and chained to a telephone post in front of his glass blowing studio on Michigan Avenue between Ridge and Ford roads in Ypsilanti.

Megdall has eight more shows to go after Ann Arbor including Art, Beats & Eats on Labor Day weekend, in Pontiac, the Spotlight Art Show Sept. 6-8 in Rochester, and the Holiday Art Fair presented by the Michigan Guild of Artists & Artisans Nov. 2-3, at Oakland

Community College in Farmington Hills.

A graduate of Center for Creative Studies (now College for Creative Studies), Megdall creates large glass bowls, wall vases, paperweights, perfume bottles, flowers, and figurative-like sculptural vessels which he exhibited at an invitational in April at Janice Charach Epstein Gallery in the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

This was his third time in the State Street Art Fair but he's exhibited regularly for years in the Summer Art Fair presented by the Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans.

"I lost three months of work," said Megdall who supports his wife Debbie and three children with his art. Debbie and Megdall work as a team to do the shows. She valued the contents of the trailer at \$15,000

and reported the insurance company will only cover the cost of materials not the retail value of the art.

"Stan has been working so hard to build inventory," said Debbie who's been doing the fairs side-by-side with Megdall for 12 years.

Blowing glass is no easy task especially during summer. Working in front of a furnace heated to more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit while forming each piece is physically exhausting.

If you have information about the 8- by 10-foot Cargo Mate with a side entry door and vent on the top (license plate R02832) or the glass art inside, call Officer Furt of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department at (734) 971-8400, ext. 7043.

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6 Michael Bolton

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14 Franklin the Turtle 11am & 7pm

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