

Marilyn Rutkowski exhibits in Midland

Award winning artist never took a lesson

Marilyn Rutkowski never took an art lesson in her life. So what are her painting and drawing doing hanging in the Midland Center for the Arts, along with works by

lots of artists with college degrees in art. The answer is she was a winner in a contest, but she didn't win by having her entries pulled out of a hat.

The Ubly area housewife-artist was one of 57 artists whose works were selected to be on display at the central region Michigan Artists 80-81 exhibition, out of

several hundred artists who submitted entries.

The judging committee reviewed almost 1,000 slides of paintings and drawings and several hundred objects before selecting the 113 winning entries.

They were then put on display from Sept. 14 - Oct. 17, with crafts, paintings and sculpture shown at the Midland Center. The other works were displayed at Central Michigan University and the Saginaw Art Museum.

Mrs. Rutkowski's winning entries were a 32-by-28-inch painting, which she has since sold, of an outdoor scene, entitled "Nature's Wonder," and a 19½-by-22½ inch pencil drawing of the St. Mary's School in Parisville which stood from the 1880s to 1903.

There were four regional exhibitions in the state, with the top entries from each displayed at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The competition was sponsored by the DIA, state-funded Michigan Council for the Arts and the participating institutions where the regional exhibitions were held.

Mrs. Rutkowski notes with well-deserved pride that in the program for the regional exhibition almost all of the artists listed have, college

degrees, many of which are in fine arts. She was one of the few who does not have a college degree.

The artist attended a small Catholic high school in Chicago, too small to have an art class. In her spare time, she drew, something for which she had a natural talent.

Her grandparents on her mother's side lived near Cumber and she often visited them. She met her husband, Stanley, while attending the wedding of a cousin.

The Rutkowskis have been married 18 years and live on the Maurer Road farm, east of Ubly, where he grew up. They have three children, Jacqueline, 15, Judy, 14, and Stanley Jr., 13.

IT WAS IN 1974 THAT Mrs. Rutkowski started painting. "It's one of those things, you always want to get around to doing," she explained. "One day I said, I think I'll start today, so I got canvas and paints and started to paint."

Since then, she has done about 75 paintings, plus many drawings. The artist is not a fast worker. "I'm very particular. I take my time, till I get it just right, and then I finish."

She usually works every day on her paintings, only in daylight, and sometimes as much as 10 hours a day. A painting may be done in four or five days, or it can take her two to three weeks.

Mrs. Rutkowski, 43, paints in a realistic style. "Modern art doesn't appeal to me."

She likes to paint pictures of farms, woodland scenes and old buildings. She doesn't do portraits.

Although she likes to paint outdoor scenes, "I don't like to work out in the elements." She prefers the comfort of her studio, which was the attached garage on her modern farm home before being completely remodeled.

MRS. RUTKOWSKI DOES most of her painting from memory and makes a point of remembering impressions, things she sees that will form the basis for a good painting.

Photographs are taken by her or her photography enthusiast husband to record details.

Rutkowski also photographs all of his wife's paintings, for record keeping purposes and because some paintings are sold via slides.

Before Mrs. Rutkowski starts a painting, she works out what she wants to do in her mind, makes a sketch the size of what the painting will be, then transfers the basic outline to the canvas before finally picking up a brush.

She sells quite a few of her paintings and exhibits at several shows each year. She does a few paintings on commission. Her paintings usually sell for \$125 and up, including frame.

She is checking into selling her paintings through galleries.

Her historical drawings, incidentally, are

copyrighted with the Library of Congress, to prevent them being "borrowed," for instance, for inclusion in a book.

"Right now, this is

something I enjoy," Mrs. Rutkowski said of her painting and drawing. Some day, she said, she may try sculpture. "When I get tired, I try something else."



FINISHING TOUCHES — Ubly artist Marilyn Rutkowski at the easel, with her latest work.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL in Parisville, as it stood from the 1880s-1903, a pencil drawing, was one of two works by Marilyn Rutkowski to be shown in the Michigan Artists 80-81 central region exhibition.



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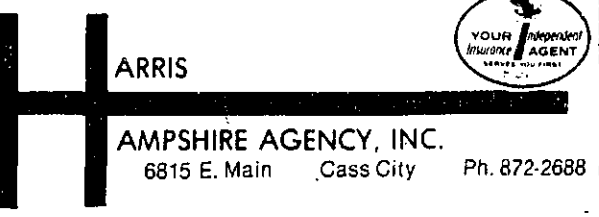
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Thumb area consortium to spend \$8.18 million in year

The Thumb Area Consortium plans to spend \$8.18 million in 1980-81, to provide jobs and job training for 2,345 persons.

The figures are only tentative, as Congress didn't get around to approving a budget for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1 until the end of last week so the exact amount won't be known until later.

The proposed \$8.18 million in federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) funds does not include Summer Youth Employment Program funds the agency is likely to receive next summer. It received \$481,768 for the program this past summer, so might receive about the same amount in 1981.

For all programs, the consortium will have spent about \$7.3 million during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. The exact figure will be known in a few weeks, when final accounting is completed.

Executive Director Frank Lenard told consortium board members last Thursday this will probably be the last year for the Title VI jobs program because, "I think you're going to see the emphasis in the Reagan administration switch from public employment to private employment."

He therefore expects to see the emphasis in CETA on

classroom job training, on-the-job training, job placement services and job creation incentives for employers.

Proposed Title VI spending in 1980-81 in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties will be \$2.62 million, to provide 600 jobs with governmental units and non-profit agencies.

ONE PROGRAM LIKELY to be favored by the incoming administration is CETA Title VII, which pays part of the wages of added employees of private firms during their on-the-job training period.

For the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, there were 185 persons enrolled in the program in the upper Thumb.

Of 81 "terminations" during the period, 42 persons obtained permanent jobs with their employers after their training was over, four transferred to other CETA programs and five left for other "positive" reasons, such as going to school.

Thirty were terminated for "non-positive" reasons, such as quitting or being fired. There were 104 persons still in the program as of Sept. 30.

Lenard termed the percentage who found jobs in the private sector as, "better than any program we offered."

THE CONSORTIUM IS receiving \$148,000 in Youth

Community Conservation Improvement Program funds for a new project, to be run by the Human Development Commission in Caro.

The money will be used to hire 35 out-of-school youths ages 16-19, who would otherwise be unemployed. They will build storm windows and cut firewood. Pay will be \$3.50 an hour. The program will end Sept. 30, 1981.

The storm windows will be used by the HDC weatherization crews, funded by a different federal program, who weatherproof homes of low-income persons. Firewood will go to low-income persons, especially senior citizens, to ease their heating bills.

LEONARD HOOL, Director of the Tri-County Public Service Agency, reported results of a program in conjunction with the Departments of Social Services in the three counties, which puts general assistance recipients to work.

From July 1, when the program started, through the end of October, 555 persons were referred to his agency for job assignments.

There were 335 who did show up and worked long enough to pay off what they received in welfare, based on the minimum wage of \$3.10 per hour.

Of the 220 who didn't show up, 37 had legitimate excuses, such as illness or no car. The remaining 183 had their benefits cut off, originally for 30 days but that was later changed by the legislature, so they now lose their benefits for 90 days.

The savings alone in cut-off benefits for those who refused to work, Hool said, was about \$85,000.

The general assistance recipients do the same type jobs as CETA Title VI workers, such as painting, brush cutting and general maintenance. The Tri-County agency runs the Title VI jobs program.



"NATURE'S WONDER," painted by Mrs. Rutkowski in 1979, was her other selection in the Michigan Artists 80-81 exhibition. It has since been sold.

Your Neighbor says I'm not ready for winter yet

Elaine Depcinski isn't quite ready for winter yet. She has some of her heavy clothes out for winter, but not all of them.

She will eventually get her snow tires on her car, "but that's really for when it snows heavy." So far, it hasn't snowed heavily.

Winter is not her favorite season, but she doesn't hate it. "Right at first, when it first gets really cold, it bothers me, but after it's here, it's not too bad."

Miss Depcinski likes one winter sport. She likes to go snowmobiling on her brothers' snowmobiles "when-ever I can fit it into my schedule."

Her favorite seasons are summer and fall — spring is too wet — and activities she enjoys include softball and swimming.

She also likes to go deer hunting, but as of Friday, hadn't gone yet this season

and didn't know if she was going to. She has yet to get her first deer, "but I swear I'm going to next year."

Miss Depcinski lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Depcinski, on Germania Road, Cass City. She is employed as a secretary at Cass City Crop Service.



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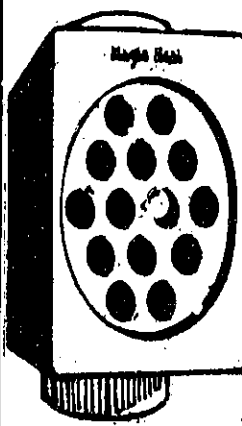
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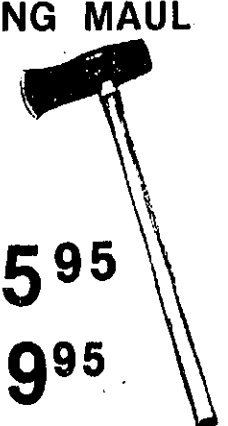
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