

Artist enters book in exhibit 1/22/99 LSJ

"My House," an artist's book by East Lansing artist **Susan Hensel**, will be included in the show "Bound to Happen," opening at West Virginia University on Thursday.

Susan joins a wide-ranging group of 27 artists who work in the field of artists' books.

"My House," an original text by Susan, is a sentimental journey through a house, through a childhood that she says "may even be my own." They are memories sweetened by distance.

"'My House' has been knocking around in my computer, in one form or another, for several years," Susan said. "While in a body cast, recovering from surgery, I spent a lot of creative time writing. I had decided to take an imaginary tour back to my childhood home to see what I might discover. What I wrote was so sweet it is amazing that my hard drive did not freeze up or attract ants in the ensuing years! About once a year, I would return to the piece, edit a bit, and throw my hands up in the air and give up. Finally in the winter of 1998, I received an invitation to create a work involving architecture. . . . 'My House' sprang to life again, lost about 1,000 words and found its form, layout and presentation."

The house-shaped book, printed in black on sepia toned paper, is housed in a house-shaped box, with old, crackled siding and a heavy, textured roof line.

Locally, Susan will teach in the Gate Program, Saturday School at Lansing Community College. This book and others can be seen at Todd Mack Custom Framing Gallery for the month of March.

People News appears Sunday through Friday. Have an item about people in and around Lansing to contribute? Please mail items to Vickki Dozier, People News, Lansing State Journal, 120 E. Lenawee St., Lansing, MI 48919 or fax them to her at 377-1298.