

DAY TRIPS

38 artists are drawn to Jackson exhibit

By Megan Swoyer
Special to The Detroit News

JACKSON — Some people write down their dreams. Susan Hensel draws hers. In fact, the East Lansing artist was so inspired by one of her sleeping visions that she created a winning mixed medium artwork, "The Gift."

Featuring pastels, sculptural materials, gold leaf, angel images, pearls and writings, "The Gift" now is on display at the annual Jackson Area Fine Arts Show at the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson.

Hensel's creation won in the One-Person Show category and joins 52 works by 37 other artists who are showcasing and selling a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking and photography.

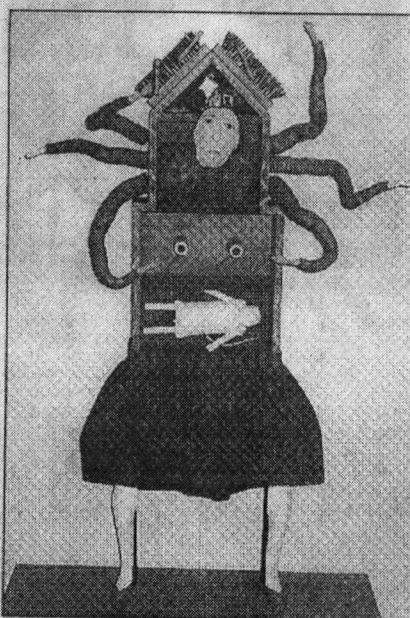
"My objective was to look for works that married technical skill to creativity," says show juror Amy Braun Heiney of the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

"The works exhibit a unique quality, a distinct personality that identifies each artist's individual strength."

"Events in my life actually inspired 'The Gift,'" says Hensel, 50. "I was researching historical angels for a project and, because they've always been an important image for me, I drew them," she says. "Their wings represent a chosen freedom and a way to escape." Hensel studied art at the University of Michigan.

A dream-inspired work, Ted Matz's "Voice from Another Dream," is on display at the Jackson show. "Road of Dreams," by Bev Hundley of Galesburg, also hits the dream theme.

"There are so many unusual categories this year so it's fun to see all the different mediums," says Heather



This is Nancy Camden's view of the average "Housewife," at the Ella Sharp Museum.

Price of the museum. Even quilt lovers will find something to admire, thanks

About the event

What: 2000 Jackson Area Show: A Fine Arts Competition.

When: Through April 6.

Where: Ella Sharp Museum, Hurst Gallery, 3225 Fourth, Jackson. From I-94 exit at 138 or 139.

Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Weekends 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tickets: \$4 adults, \$3 seniors and students, \$2 ages 5-15 and under 5 free.

Call: (517) 787-2320. Web site, www.ellasharp.org.

to "Heated Conversation," by Sue Holdaway-Heys of Ann Arbor. "It's a small, maybe 18 inches by 2 feet, quilted fabric," says Price.

The Ella Sharp Museum complex of historic buildings and modern galleries is located on 530 acres willed by Ella Merriman Sharp to the city of Jackson in 1912.

Jackson events

Flying Karamazov Brothers, tonight, Potter Center, Jackson Community College. Comedy and juggling. Call (517) 796-8600.

Return to Sweden, March 2, Middle School at Parkside. Travel Adventure Film Series. Call (517) 750-3725.

Camelot, March 5, Potter Center, Jackson Community College. Call (517) 796-8600.

Home Show/Expo 2000, March 17-19, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Call (517) 783-4800.

The Lettermen, March 25, Potter Center, Jackson Community Col-

lege. Call (517) 796-8600.

Sugaring & Shearing Festival, March 26, Ella Sharp Museum. Call (517) 787-2300.

Israel: Stories from the Holy Land, April 6, Middle School at Parkside. Travel-Adventure Film Series. Call (517) 750-3725.

Bluebird Festival & Art Show, April 8-9, Jackson Community College. Booths, guided walks and more. Call (517) 782-3453.

Sunlight & Shadows, April 29-June 18, Ella Sharp Museum. Collection of American Impressionist paintings. Call (517) 782-2300.

— Compiled by Megan Swayer