The Citizen.

©2007, A Division of Lee Publications SINCE 1816, THE NEWS THAT HITS HOME 50 cents

Artist Mary Diamond comes to Schweinfurth for trunk show

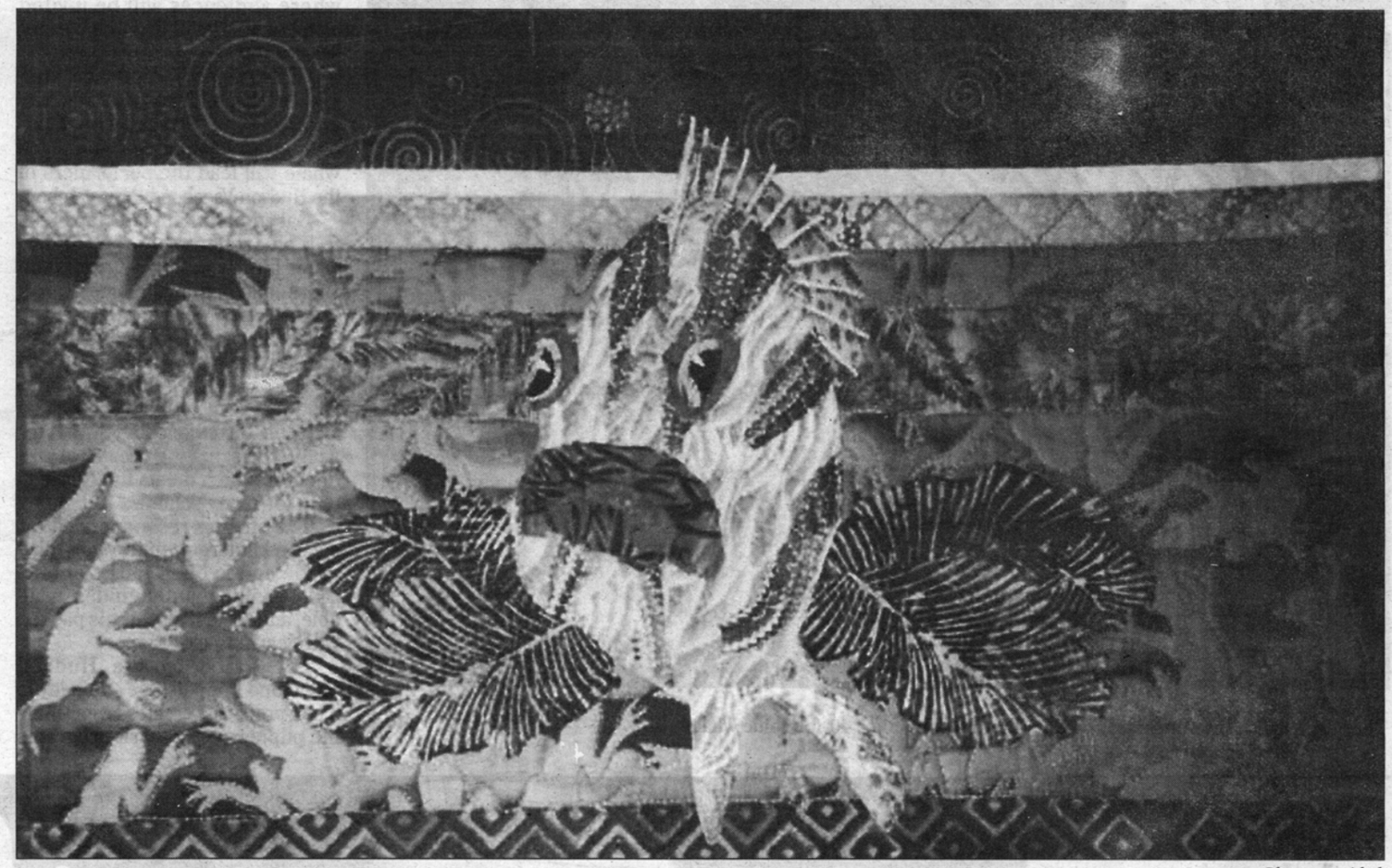

Photo provided

"Grandpa Grouper," a quilt by Mary Diamond, demonstrates the qualities of quilts Diamond will show in her trunk show Saturday, at the Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center.

SHANE M. LIEBLER
The Citizen

Fiber art fans getting their first look at the 26th annual Juried Quilt Exhibit this weekend at the Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center can also experience the first in a series of Sunday trunk shows.

Quilt artist Mary Diamond of Interlaken will spend some time talking about her quilts, some of which have been featured in the exhibit. The program coincides with the annual "Quilts=Art=Quilts" exhibition that runs through Jan. 6.

Diamond took up the craft about 10 years ago after retiring as a high school teacher. The progression has transformed the hobby into a healthy obsession for her.

"Immediately I got involved in working with fabrics and plunged right into it," said Diamond, who often draws from her rural roots to create nature scenes with her fabric.

The artist also gets inspiration from more far-flung locales. She spent a half-year in Nairobi, where she developed an appreciation for Kenyan cloth, which she employs in much of her work.

"I wasn't into quilting at the time, but I was in love with the colors and scenes," Diamond said.

The trunk show will include the frequent path her creations take — far off from where they start.

"I'll explain what I had foreseen the quilt being and how it ended up," Diamond said of Sunday's presentation. "I get a lot of joy sharing what I'm doing, especially knowing what I get when I attend other trunk shows."

Diamond said she is still developing as a quilter. She gets constructive feedback from The Quilt Divas, a small offshoot of the Tompkins County Quilting Guild that meets, critiques and exhibits.

"I think I've finally focused on realizing that I'm entirely inspired by nature," Diamond said. "I find repeatedly I'm using fairly representational forms of nature in my quilts or lines that I see in nature.

Diamond said she is looking forward to being a part of the Schweinfurth's quilt exhibit.

"They have grown in national fame among quilters and they are now drawing from around the world in their quilting exhibition," Diamond said.

Staff writer Shane Liebler can be reached at 253-5311 ext. 248 or shane.liebler@lee.net

If you go

What: Trunk Show by Mary Diamond
When: 2 p.m. Saturday
Where: Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, 205 Genesee St., Auburn
Admission: $5
For details: Call 255-1553