

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FEBRUARY

## ART

**Ann Arbor Art Center:** Chinese artist Beili Liu, an assistant professor of art at Eastern Michigan University, is the featured exhibitor through Feb. 18. Her installation, *ALINE*, juxtaposes elements from her two cultural experiences. • *Drawing into Painting* features works by Margot Spindelmann, Tom Carey, Steven Matthew Brown, Miroslav Cukovic and Rose Schueller. This exhibition opens Feb. 24 and continues through April 8. 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor; 734-994-8004.

**Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC):** *The Robinson Committee Collects* opens with a reception from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 3 and continues through Feb. 24. • In the De Salle Community Gallery, the *BBAC Student Exhibition* runs concurrently. 1516 S. Cranbrook Rd., Birmingham; 248-644-0866.

**Cass:** *3 The Hard Way*, a mixed-media exhibition by Taurus Burns, John Harkins and Harlan Lovestone, continues through March 4. 4620 Cass, Detroit; 313-831-1400.

**Community Arts:** *MFA I* continues through Feb. 24. *Community Arts Building*, Wayne State University, Detroit; 313-577-2423.

**Cranbrook Art Museum:** *Contemporary Photography from Local Collections* continues through March 26. • *Crossing Flatland: New Designs by Scott Klinker* features new products and furniture by the designer-in-residence at Cranbrook Academy of Art. The exhibit includes the Space Frame project, which is now sold through design retailers such as Design Within Reach and The Museum of Modern Art Store and was on *Fortune Magazine's* "Hot New Products" list for 2004. Opens Feb. 4 and continues through April 2. • *Shoot the Family* presents 60 works of photography or video made in the last 10 years by 18 artists in North America, Europe and Asia. The exhibition was organized by Independent Curators International in New York and will be contextualized at Cranbrook with contemporary photography from local collections. Opening Feb. 4; through April 2. \$4-\$6. 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills; 248-645-3323.

**Detroit Artists Market:** *Detroit by Design* features contemporary design, runway fashion and custom-designed motorcycles through Feb. 5. • *Brian Kremer + Jo Powers* opens Feb. 10 and continues through March 3. 4719 Woodward, Detroit; 313-832-8540.

**The Detroit Institute of Arts:** *The Super "Bowl" Show: Still Life Prints, Drawings, Photographs and Vessels* is a multimedia extravaganza planned to kick off the week before Detroit's Super Bowl XL. The exhibition combines a selection of works on paper with a variety of 3-D containers from the museum's collection that represent an eclectic range of schools and periods. Through April 30. • *Camille Claudel and Rodin: Fateful Encounter* represents the first side-by-side comparison of works by the student and her lover. Many of these extraordinary sculptures have never been shown outside of France and will be on display in the United States only here in Detroit through Feb. 5. • 5200 Woodward, Detroit; 313-833-7900.

**Detroit MoNA:** In an endeavor to discover what early trends and forms will define the new century and its art, the Museum of New Art presents *You're So 21st Century: The Search for the Greatest Living Artist* through Feb. 14. 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac; 248-210-7560.



## 'Father Bingo' Bets on Motown

When the curtain rises at Detroit's Music Hall on Feb. 10, theatergoers will witness a moment not seen in a long while: the Motor City debut of a full-scale musical production.

So the toe-tapping comedy *Father Bingo* may not have a Broadway run scheduled (as did *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Hello, Dolly!* when they premiered here in the 1960s), but it does boast a writer from Dearborn, a Detroit story line and a pair of Motown stars. It also has an ambitious local production team that, if not aiming for the Great White Way, is looking to make a musical mark.

"Several touring groups will be in attendance to look for content and to determine whether they will take it across the U.S.," says executive producer Rick Beyer, who bought the rights to the play in 2003. "The professionals kept saying the fundamentals — the music and story line — were good."

*Father Bingo* tells the story of three people looking for salvation in Detroit: a priest trying to save his parish, a mayor fighting for support of casino gambling and a lonely young woman looking for love. Mix in political intrigue, a case of mistaken identity, some risky decisions and divine intervention — and miracles happen.

The play's local flavor includes two original Vandellas. Just as Martha Reeves is starting her second act on Detroit City Council, Rosalind Ashford Holmes and Annette Sterling Helton are staging their own, making theatrical debuts in several roles, including the "Bingo Mamas."

Adding to *Father Bingo's* interesting story is that it's the rookie effort of writer Bill Nilsson, a 77-year-old former computer analyst — and music lover — from Dearborn who's written songs and a play, but never an entire show. He didn't even consider the thought until 1992, when he married a singer and actress and began frequenting the theater. "I noticed very few original musicals were written and decided that I would take my chances and begin my journey," Nilsson says. The seed for this production was planted in 1996 when his wife took him to play bingo in Windsor, and he pocketed \$2,000.

Whether he'll hit the jackpot with *Father Bingo* remains to be seen, but Nilsson says the process has already paid off in personal satisfaction. And as he gets set for the premiere, he hopes his work will not only entertain Detroiters, but inspire them as well. "When others see that someone like me could do this, they gain the confidence to write that book, or that play, or the music that is within them." — C.L. Lombardo

"*Father Bingo*" runs for four shows Feb. 10-12 at the Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit; 248-981-7003 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Detroit Zoo:** *The 2005 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition*, organized by the Natural History Museum and *BBC Wildlife* magazine for more than 40 years, features 83 winning photographs chosen from more than 18,000 entries by photographers from around the world. The North American premiere of this exhibition takes place in the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center through April 20. Free. 8450 W. 10 Mile Rd., Royal Oak; 248-398-0903.

**Elaine L. Jacob:** *In the Eye of the Beholder* continues through March 3. 480 W. Hancock, Detroit; 313-993-7813.

**Meadow Brook Art Gallery:** *The Department of Art & Art History Faculty Exhibition* continues through Feb. 19. 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University campus, Rochester; 248-370-3005.

**Paint Creek Center for the Arts:** In *Detroit/Toledo Exchange*, the Toledo Federation of Art Societies sends their *Toledo Area Artist's Exhibit* to be displayed at the PCCA, while works by Matthew Hanna and Carl Butler go to the University of Toledo for display in its gallery. Sara Schriff's ink-wash drawings on vintage handkerchiefs and fabrics, titled *Birds*, runs concurrently. Both shows continue through Feb. 25. 407 Pine St., Rochester; 248-651-4110.

**Primary Space:** A solo exhibition of Anna Cangialosi's fashion-inspired paintings opens Feb. 4 with a reception from 6-8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 25. 2750 Yemans, Hamtramck; 313-870-9470.

**River Gallery Fine Art:** *Barry Avedon: A Retrospective* celebrates 40 years of painting for

the Ann Arbor artist who works in oils and credits his influences to the bright colors and exaggerated forms of German Expressionism. The exhibition continues through Feb. 26. 120 S. Main St., Chelsea; 734-433-0826.

**University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA):** *Season of Four Exhibitions, Landscapes of Longing: Journeys Through Memory and Place* is a thematic exploration of how an artist's personal vision can become part of a shared communal memory. On view through April 2. • *The Golden Age of Dutch Prints*, a grouping of 30 exquisite etchings in a variety of subjects and approaches. Including works by Rembrandt van Rijn, Cornelis Dusart, Hendrik Goudt, Adriaen van Ostade and Jan van de Velde II. Through March 26. • *Recent Acquisitions of East Asian Art* includes a gift of nearly 80 kimono, obi and other garments from the Yamaguchi family and two 17th-century portraits of Chinese physicians from David L. Chambers and John G. Crane. Through May 15. • *Silk Road to Clipper Ship: Trade, Changing Markets and East Asian Ceramics* demonstrates the important role of foreign trade that inspired Chinese potters to continually reinvent their repertoire of shapes and decorative techniques. Through Feb. 12. • *Treasures of Islamic Art from UMMA Collections*, ongoing. 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor; 734-764-0395.

**Washington Street:** *Current Paintings: In Acrylic and Watercolor* is a solo exhibition of works by Adrienne Kaplan, Feb. 7-March 12. Meet the artist at a reception from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 10. 120 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor; 734-761-2287.

## CLASSICAL

**Alfred Brendel:** He's not the flashiest pianist on the circuit, but Brendel is one of the most probing, intelligent musicians around, who also knows how to revel in the sheer joy of making music. His solo recital begins and closes with Haydn sonatas. Sandwiched between them are Schubert's Sonata No. 18 in G Major, Mozart's Fantasia in C minor and the haunting Rondo in A minor, also by Mozart. 3 p.m. Feb. 19. \$19-\$85. *Orchestra Hall, at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit; 313-576-5111.*

**Brunch with Bach:** A yet-to-be-decided Sphinx Competition winner will perform a solo recital. Feb. 12. Brunch begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by the concert at 12:30 p.m. \$30 adults, \$15 children under 12 for concert and brunch. Concert-only stairwell tickets are \$8. Museum admission included in ticket prices. *Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit; 313-833-4005.*

**Chamber Music Society:** Dismayed by the lack of young people at classical concerts, youthful cellist Matt Haimovitz decided to do something about it. Instead of performing exclusively at concert halls, Haimovitz plays at bars, coffeehouses — even the CBGB club in New York City — to attract a new audience to classical music. And, although he's renowned for his interpretations of Bach's Cello Suites, he also does a funky take on "The Star-Spangled Banner," called "Anthem," inspired by Jimi Hendrix's guitar version. Haimovitz, who's making his Chamber Music Society debut, performs two different concerts. He appears with the St. Lawrence String Quartet in pieces by Schubert, Mozart and Shostakovich. 8 p.m. Feb. 10. Then, the cellist