

DIA program brings museum to Northville

SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

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By Linda Ann Chomin

CORRESPONDENT

Art lovers have one more reason to visit downtown Northville and the Novi Public Library through Nov. 30.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is celebrating its 125th anniversary by displaying reproductions of paintings not only outside the library, but Dancing Eye Gallery in Northville and Andiamo - Novi. The waterproof works are part of the DIA Inside/Out program and installed on brick walls or placed on posts.

"The Recitation," an impressionistic painting by American artist Thomas Dewing, is a welcome addition to the patio area outside of the new Novi library. The library opened June 1 with its own art collection. A brochure lists 1,600 ceramic tiles by local artist, Connie Lunski, as well as 15 glass apples by internationally known artist Richard Ritter.

"We have a new patio on our new building that people can sit and enjoy," said Library Director Julie Farkas. "It's almost like going into the DIA, and there's a little bit of information alongside. The painting is very beautiful with lighter colors of two women in a field. Patrons can walk up. They're very surprised and love the fact that they could see it from our location."

The Novi Library is just one of 40 locations in Oakland, Wayne, Macomb and Washtenaw counties displaying art. The works were curated by Larry Branski and installed the week before Labor Day.



Northville Dancing Eye Gallery owner Theresa Schierloh looks at a reproduction of Frederic Church's "Cotopaxi" painting which has been hung on the Main Street side of her downtown business' building. The painting is one of a series of art works from the Detroit Institute of Arts that are being displayed outside in metro Detroit communities. (JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)



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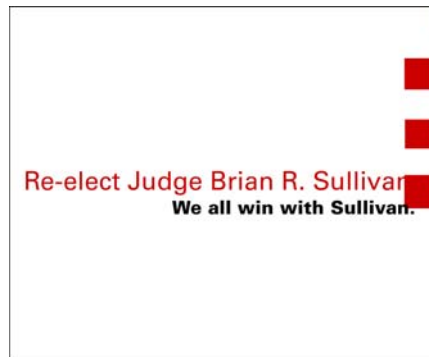
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"It's community outreach," said Michelle Hauske, the DIA's Inside/Out location manager. Hauske met with representatives of the cities and building owners to coordinate the program.

"We wanted to do something outside of museum walls to share our collection. We chose high traffic areas



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and areas meaningful to community, farmer's markets, coffee shops, and try to correlate the images with the area selected.”

For those looking for a weekend adventure, Hauske suggests making the rounds of all 40 reproductions. A list can be found on the website at www.dia.org or visit <https://sites.google.com/site/diainsideout/> and download GPS coordinates for a high-tech treasure hunt. Along the way, scavenger hunters win museum tickets and T-shirts.