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December 2006/January 2007

4.8.009

CELEBRATING BIRMINGHAM/BLOOMFIELD LIFE



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D'art Next Door

A look at Birmingham/Bloomfield mixed-media artists

Homes by Rail

Birmingham catalog houses have become collectors' dreams, nearly a century later

A Breath of Fresh Air

Mother Nature is muse for Birmingham homeowners

Mary Gillis, Birmingham

Abstract painter and sculptor Mary Gillis doesn't believe in pure abstraction.

"It doesn't exist," says Gillis, 54. "There has to be some reference point. It could be the smallest thing. Then you explore the path that leads to ideas."

Gillis finds the smallest things in nature, music, literature and pieces of historical art, and balances opposites in her work. She's equally interested in metal sculpture – Gillis likes experimenting with finishes – oil painting and three-dimensional collage that combines the two.

Gillis says art, whether or not it's embraced by others, should include honesty and reflect the artist's soul. ❖

