

# Moby moves on

Maureen Bogle, longtime Glencoe art teacher, discovered the nifty gritty of glass enameling

By MARILYN R. ABBEY

...ations of former students at Glen-  
...ntal School remember Maureen  
... universally known as "Moby" —  
... well-loved fine arts and crafts  
... with whom they polished gemsto-  
... bored on the murals which deco-  
... old cinder-block walls. Bogle lived  
... tka, and taught seventh and eighth  
... at Central, for 27 years. In 1979,  
... early retirement to expand her  
... stic horizons, and now spends her  
... rking on realistic glass enamel  
... ations of sea life and flora, much  
... from the Pacific coast or her own  
... Idaho.

...re's nothing in the literature," she  
...husiastically of her new interest.  
...y is doing it this way. Artists are  
...ndscapes and portraits in glass en-  
...nd there's miniature realism, es-  
...in cloisonne, but to the best of my  
...ge no one has captured the third  
...on." Bogle painstakingly textures  
...ks through as many as 18 or 20 ap-  
...s of powdered glass, cemented by

...HE 1960s, she did some freelance  
... projects for a Chicago publishing  
... producing more than 60 botanical  
... logical charts for school instruc-  
...se. "If it's classifiable, I draw it,"  
... of her scientific illustration skills  
... a recent interview in the roomy  
... studio of her Chicago home.  
... esment is separated into centers  
... meling and jewelry-making, firing,  
... making, and display of finished  
... as well as such mundane activities  
... ing clothes. A mounted display of  
... a plants from the Oregon coast, as  
... countertops and cabinets laden  
... shells, stones, weeds, pine cones, sea  
... coral await a design inspiration.)

...out five or six years ago, I started  
... menting with realism," she said.  
... ill of drawing in realism was my  
... st asset, and I felt my skill in enam-

eling was something I had built to a level of  
excellence, so why not enjoy it? It became  
a self-evaluating thing. All my own motiva-  
tion as a young person had come from real-  
ism, from nature. It was like revitalizing  
myself."

**NOTING THAT THERE** is a trend  
back toward realism in contemporary art,  
Bogle smiled. "I came to a point in my life  
where I was free to go to realism. It was  
very pleasant to find that I wasn't going to  
be completely out of it."

Finding her subjects — small alpine  
plants, "the kind you don't notice unless  
you get down on your hands and knees";  
sea anemones; starfish; shells — is a mat-  
ter of tramping through Wyoming and  
Idaho on field trips several times a year, or  
going to Door County, and of visiting  
aquariums.

"I don't dive," she smiled. "I don't have  
the courage." So she finds her sea life in  
the next best places — Scripps Ocean-

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urday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun-  
day at North Suburban Syna-  
gogue Beth El, 1175 Sheridan  
Rd., Highland Park. Tickets are  
\$3.50 for adults (\$3 in advance)  
and \$1 for students. Call 432-  
8900 for information.

ographic Institute in LaJolla, Cal., the Se-  
attle Aquarium, Baltimore National Aquar-  
ium, Chicago's own Shedd Aquarium  
(where her enameled panels often are on  
sale in the museum store).

She takes photographs, draws pencil  
sketches, and studies field guides, as well  
as collecting specimens, to ensure authen-  
ticity, and plans her enamels to show  
forms of life which actually would be found  
together.

**ONCE SHE HAS** decided on a subject,  
Bogle applies a thin coat of liquid glass,  
like a ceramic glazing, to a square plate of

copper. When it is dry, she uses a steel  
scraper to etch the design, drawing from  
her penciled sketch. When this is fired, the  
lines become oxidized and hence visible.  
Then she starts building up the color, by  
painting the desired portion with a fine  
seed oil and sifting on a thin layer of suga-  
ry-grained colored glass which sticks to the  
wet surface.

To illustrate, Bogle began coloring a  
dainty "pixie cup" wildflower a delicate  
pearly grey. Another flower already  
blushed a delicate pale azure, its opaque  
white petals powdered to translucent blue.

Bogle may spend one or two hours ap-  
plying the color which will then go into the  
kiln for one to two minutes, after which an-  
other layer can be applied.

The process, she said, is similar to that  
used commercially for baked-enamel cook-  
ware and automobile escutcheons.

Bogle, who grew up in northern Idaho,  
attended Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles  
and UCLA, and later was graduated from  
the Art Institute of Chicago. As for the  
choice of Chicago to pursue her art train-  
ing, "I had drawn 'forever,'" said Bogle,  
"but going all the way to the East Coast?  
No one could imagine that. You have no  
idea how far away you feel when you live  
in Idaho. Chicago was the outer limits."

**AFTER GETTING** her degree, she re-  
turned to the West Coast to teach at a  
small college in Spokane, Wash. "I was try-  
ing to do everything in Spokane —" said  
Bogle, "painter, commercial illustrator in  
an ad agency, crafts consultant to the Spo-  
kane public schools. I was just doing every-  
thing, not anything in depth."

Coming to the North Shore was a career  
choice which kept her happy for many  
years, until she realized that "teaching was  
taking it all," and it was time to make a  
break if she was going to realize her per-  
sonal goals as an artist.

The breakthrough in her new career as  
an enamelist came, she said, about two  
years ago when she first was juried into a  
national craft show in Gaithersburg, Md.,



followed shortly by another in-  
...red by American Craft En-

The shows, said Bogle, are  
in."

"You are there with me  
builds your own tension. I  
want to work all the time  
attended by 30,000 to 50,000  
indoors, very elegant  
are artist-craftsmen. I  
mercial."

**NOW, SHE ALSO** p  
show in Frederick, Md  
fairground ("I believe  
stall"), which is transi-  
with carpeting and light

In the Chicago area  
ited at art shows and  
Oak Park, Glenview  
stock, Ravenswood, a  
Northbrook libraries,  
Tower and Gold Coast  
are carried at Images I

"I have yet to get  
and Old Town art fairs  
this is a goal. These  
and, while she approach  
a fine art, it is classifi-

When she isn't en-  
show, or hiking or fish-  
content to work in her  
plined five-day, 7 a.m. to

"I can't think of an-  
to keep it up," she said  
wards, to my work a  
see a difference. I feel  
time."

Maureen Bogle will  
at the North Suburban  
Festival of the Arts this

*This was a wonderful exhibit!*