

"Winter/Spring" is the name of this work by artist Rosemary Stickel.

Painters prepare for traveling exhibit

The Birmingham Society of Women Painters will have a showing of their combined work in posters at the famed Cork Gallery, Avery Fisher Hall of Lincoln Center, New York, from Sept. 25 through Oct. 8.

Although the showing is weeks away, the artists preparing for it are working frenetically.

"There's a history of posters at Lincoln Center," Jo Snyder said flipping through a book with the Lincoln Center posters reproduced in color, "and that's what prompted this project."

She was referring to the cooperative poster which the members of the group were working on at that moment. They were seated around tables at Reva Shwyder's home, each intent on a small project.

At Mrs. Snyder's instigation, they were working to produce one of the most unusual and difficult posters in the history of that art. When the large poster is completed, it will have 30 squares each done by a different artist to show an example of her work. In preparation for the silk screening process, each artist was painting on transparent Mylar squares, a separate square for each color.

Once the squares are completed, (an exacting and unfamiliar process to most of these artists), Mrs. Snyder will make a series of silkscreens, one for each color and she estimated there would possibly be eight colors.

"I'm printing it in my studio by direct photo process producing the stencil," she said. "It's unique for me to be printing the work of 30 people — I think it's very exciting. We're dealing with artists who are not printmakers, but it didn't take them long to pick it up."

That might have been because Mrs. Snyder gave an instant course in silk screen techniques to her fellow artists. She demonstrated, explained techniques and checked to see if the colors on the squares lined up perfectly so there wouldn't be any blurring or bleeding around the edges.

SHE SAID THAT on a good day,

without interruptions, she may be able to print two colors. She plans to have the first colors done in about two weeks and the project completed by Aug. 15. What she wasn't talking about was the hours of exacting work which she will have to do in preparation for the printing. Some who had some knowledge of the silk screen process had an inkling of the monumental task Mrs. Snyder had taken in producing the 100 posters.

When completed, the poster should give a graphic, colorful sampling of the variety of styles of work that will be in the show. It runs from realism to abstract, includes humorous, playful work, color study, optical art and front-running media exploration.

Within the group, Mary Beard and Carolyn Hall have already had shows in New York, but all have shown professionally in numerous galleries in the Midwest. Three of the members work as commercial artists or as designers and graphic artists and 11 are art instructors in various colleges and art centers in the metropolitan area.

Mrs. Hall has published several books about her art, "Stitched and Stuffed Art" and the latest, "The Sewing Machine Book." Leslie Masters and Lillian Hopkin explore color progressions on Plexiglas. In their work, reverse painting, an old art technique, takes a contemporary form.

One of the most innovative painters in the group, Mrs. Beard may do anything from abstract oils and acrylics to producing images on large sheets of film or improvising with blue print techniques. Mrs. Snyder who works skillfully in a variety of media, frequently uses color silkscreen to record abstract images. Working with basic colors, she uses these shapes to create large polychrome prints.

Several of the painters work in watercolor, but they use it in an abstract or detailed study form.

The New York exhibition runs from Sept. 25 to Oct. 8. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. Monday-Saturday and noon Sunday until the closing time of Avery Fisher Hall.

After New York, the exhibition will open in Sarasota, Fla.

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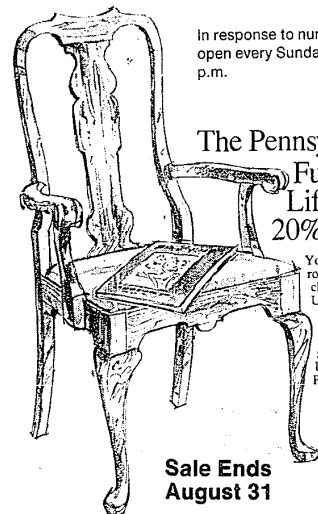
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