

First show marked by artist's gentle use of color

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This has been a landmark year for painter Lyn Parker of West Bloomfield. Her career as a studio artist which she has been working at diligently for five years suddenly came together.

She won first prize in the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association May show. Two of her works were accepted

in the Scarab Club silver medal show last week, and her first one-woman show opened at Gallery Renaissance in Renaissance Center.

Mrs. Parker, former successful New York textile designer, switched to fine arts after she married Dr. Jeff Parker, internist, and moved to this area. She came to the Midwest as a new bride, wondering if she had given up all possibilities of a career in the arts. She had a bachelor's degree in psychology and

first decided to 'do master's work at Oakland University in that field with the intention of going into art therapy.

"But, I knew I had to paint," she said as she stood in her attractive West Bloomfield home waiting for her 40 paintings to be loaded and transported to the Gallery Renaissance.

So take she returned to the pattern her parents had begun to establish when she was a youngster.

"I've been taking art lessons since I

was 5. My mother saved every drawing I ever made," she said.

SHE ENROLLED IN CLASSES at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and studied with Sophie Fordon, Marilyn Derwansky, Mary Jane Bigler and Reva Shwayder. She also studied with Hava Schaver of Farmington Hills.

Not long ago, she found a studio in Farmington which has helped both home life and art career.

Now, as mother of two daughters, 2 and 3, she can work uninterrupted at her studio and concentrate on her art.

"I've always set aside two days a week for me — Tuesdays and Thursdays I paint. The rest of the time is for my family."

Even with that limited schedule, Mrs. Parker is a prolific artist. She talks and thinks quickly. The speed with which her comments about her work come suggest the rapid flow of creative ideas for painting.

Painting, in fact, is almost too general a term for Mrs. Parker's work. Her paintings are multi-media and this combination of acrylics, crayon and pencil often includes collage using prints or photographs in a transfer technique.

The influence of her training and work in textiles is readily apparent.

"I started out with collage. I can't get away from it. I like the three-dimensional look of collage," she said. "I have definitely been inspired by Rauschenberg . . . my dream is to have a conversation with him about his work."

The art classes and combination of home and art careers make easy-to-satisfy demands on the energy which Mrs. Parker has in an inordinate degree.

"Her seemingly boundless supply is apparent in her work, not only in the quantity, but in quality and character as well. She does large diptychs, in the combination of acrylic, crayon and pencil, lots of slightly smaller works that are primarily collage and many others that combine a variety of techniques."

"I wouldn't even know how to explain them," she said, "they're just me. My inspiration comes from inside."

BUT SHE THRIVES on regular return trips to New York City with her husband. They visit the Scho galleries religiously. "It's as if I have to know what's going on all the time."

She doesn't wish to use what she sees on these trips except as stimulation for her own work. She said that long before it's time to come back to Michigan, she can hardly wait to get back to her studio. It's as if the canvas or paper is in front of her while she's in the city, waiting to be filled.

In her latest large works, the placement of the lines, squiggles and color is far more random appearing than in the earlier works which are more structured collages. There's a looseness in the latest works that suggests the security and enjoyment which the artist has about her work. The control is there, but never obvious. The flow of line and color looks spontaneous which it is except that the artist has been perfecting these skills of hand and eye for many years. Therefore, she has access to the values of each one. She knows what works and what doesn't and why.

In her most recent work, she's using a black ground which presents new challenges and high impact. As a 31-year-old Midwestern artist, mother and wife, Mrs. Parker has structured a life which she believes is the best of both worlds for her. It shows in her art — she's energetic, talented, hardworking and confident.



Large acrylic painting shows what the artist calls her "crucial preoccupation with space." She also explains that the brush word and suggestions of calligraphy imply a continuation of the work beyond the framing edge. Line and movement are a constantly recurring theme in her work.

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