

Center photo show succeeds

By Jan Loveland
Special writer

Currently in its last week at Rochester's Paint Creek Center for the Arts is Photomage '84, a juried selection of works by 35 lesser-known area and Michigan photographers.

While these works vary in quality, the show is an interesting overview of current trends in art photography.

Many of the works are concerned primarily with form and secondarily with color, including some intriguing abstract portraits by Birmingham resident Jean Lansen.

Lansen's figures are shadowy and

review

vague, placed in environments that seem to add to this aura, and hand-colored to further draw them away from realism.

Likewise, Carol Bjerk of Clare manipulates the photographic processes to create meditations and arresting visions—a lace curtain opening to a dream-like world and a castle made of pieces of other images.

Janet Forbes' still lifes, which recall Olivia Parker, are also meticulously

executed, although in a far more realistic style.

PORTRAITS comprise many of the show's strongest moments. Daniel Polman of Elwell captures two older women in extremely natural and not entirely depressing postures.

His women have grace, beauty and character despite their age and apparent physical infirmity.

Equally compelling is Southfield photographer Michael Perez' portrait of two black children who seem, like Nicholas Nixon's subjects, to be totally surreal.

Martha Mardirosoian uses a more straightforward approach in capturing two artists that she knows her views of "Richard" and "Sue" are environmental portraiture in the best sense of the term.

Finally, Daniel Nilman combines the surrealism of Nixon with the color realism of William Eggleston to produce two startling images, "Sarah," a portrait of two children, and "Deer killed deer," a young woman with a freshly killed deer.

Although non-aliver processes are scarcely represented in the show, color xerography appears to be a popular process. Five photographers use xerographic reproduction as part of their creative vision.

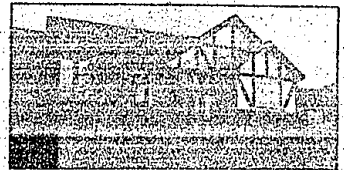
Jan Lincoln makes a political statement with her pair of images, "Woman as Creator" and "Man, Myth, Machine." In her works, small images are combined to suggest male and female forms.

VERONICA Pala drives after a more abstract, triangular form, which she then colors in three different ways for a triad that draws the viewer into its variations. William Szabo, Judith Engel, and Dona Ono also use xerography in a pleasing manner.

Other entries in the show fall more into the current stream of photographic cliché, including various attempts at Weston-like landscape and still life.

For more information contact the center at 651-4110. For more information about Michigan Friends of Photography, contact the group at Box 304, Rochester, MI 48063.

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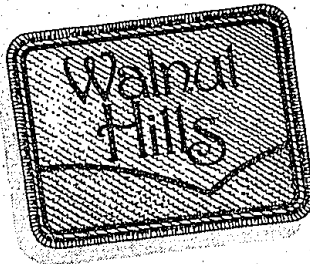
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