

Imagery from 4 viewpoints

By Manon Meilgaard
special writer

Imagine having a tiled kitchen or sunporch floor which is also a piece of art. This is one of the features in a highly pleasing exhibition at the Rubiner Gallery, where four representational artists explore expressions of imagery in styles which are both personal and diversified.

Local artist Deborah Hecht said her over-glass tile works are equally at home on the floor as on the wall. Primarily a watercolorist, she began experimenting with tile about a year ago, using commercial white tiles and her own kiln.

Some of the pieces are in conventional block form, with the tiles placed side by side. In "Window," which gives the impression of looking through a window into a garden, the tiles are spaced a few inches apart like panes of glass in an actual window.

Another piece, "Doll's House and Abstract," is almost two different paintings linked together with irregular shaping and spaces.

"You can achieve some unusual effects with tile," said this talented and innovative young artist, who is also a professional jewelry designer.

AREA WATERCOLORIST Barbara Keldan's enlarged and delectable flower images have little in common with traditional flower arrangements in vases. These exuberant dahlias, apricot and white roses, purple lilies and yellow lilies are further dramatized by strong black, red and green backgrounds.

The paintings are as large as the artist's vision — ranging from approximately 36 inches by 48 inches to an eight-foot diptych of an actual wedding bouquet. Keldan, who also paints vigorous land and seascapes, said the inspiration for her flower imagery came from watching a neighbor plant tulips in jet black earth.

When a white rose painting in the present exhibition didn't seem striking enough, she superimposed it on a larger sheet of paper, enlarged the black background, added more blossoms and leaves, and entitled it "Rose Expansion." Keldan, chairwoman of Michigan Watercolor Society, said she draws from nature and paints in the studio.

A direct contrast is the reflective, almost somnolent mood of boats gently treading water in a series of acrylic paintings and watercolors by William Zingaro. This New York artist, the only non-Michiganian in the show, lives in North Folk, Long Island, and his images capture the essence of this rather remote boating community and the surrounding nature.

For example, a watercolor titled "Mooring at



Beverly Hills painter, Barbara Keldan, enlarges and dramatizes flowers by por-

traying them against strong color back-

Schoolhouse Creek," an early winter or late fall scene of moored boats in misty tones of green, browns and blue, is remarkable for the skillful use of light.

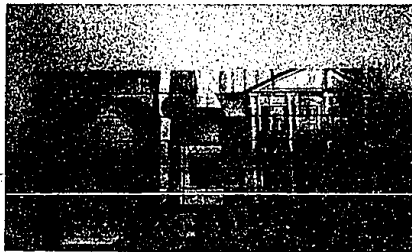
Light and space are also salient features in a strong acrylic on canvas, "Green Port," where a cluster of small houses and fishing shacks take up just one third of the canvas, a brilliant blue sky occupies the remainder.

VICKI BRETT of Ann Arbor is represented by some fine watercolors and oil paintings, in which meticulous attention is paid to composition, color, space and shape, in both landscapes and still lifes. Her oil paintings have an interesting, slightly iridescent sheen and some of her watercolors have the bulkier look of pastels.

A decided lack of clutter distinguished her cerebral but artistically appealing still lifes — a modern, blue ceramic teapot is placed next to an elegant (18th century?) hand-painted bone china teapot, and between these two focal points are six freshly-plucked green pears with leaves.

In another oil on canvas, "October Pumpkins," the orange, fuzzy globes against a green background present an almost surreal effect.

Brett, who teaches drawing, watercolor and oil painting at Schoolcraft College, Livonia, and has taught at the University of Michigan School of



Deborah Hecht's painting on tile, "Doll House and Abstract," 28 by 56 inches, is an interesting combination of seemingly unrelated concepts.

Vicki Brett's 30-by-30-inch oil on canvas is titled "Spirit Memory." Brett teaches at Schoolcraft College of Livonia.

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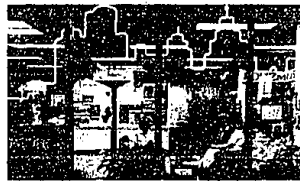
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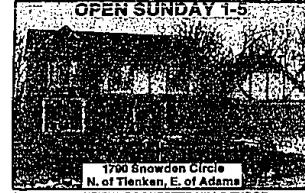
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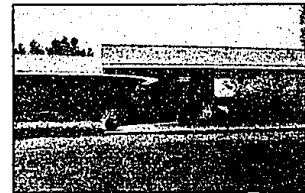
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