

Exhibit represents new direction for artist

The paintings on display in the Farmington Library Quiet Room this month represent a new direction for artist Alice A. Nichols.

The pieces contain some of the traditional subjects Nichols has loved for years, but then depart into playful patterns of design.

"I began to paint in what I call a more playful spirit last year while my husband Don was on sabbatical," said Nichols. "I have painted very traditionally since my days of teaching and when you teach you

follow a more academic direction.

"We were in Tennessee while Don (Oakland Community College dean) was writing his book which is a social history of 1960s and 70s. We didn't have our usual teaching pressures."

The most realistic piece in the exhibit is "Bubbles," a watercolor portrait of her son Tim snorkeling in a pool. The ripples in the water and the varying color areas show the strong patterns of design evident in the other pieces on display.

The pieces, "Perky Mums" and "Border Bovine," are realistically painted but have unusual matting techniques. Cut fabric has been attached to the mat area and interacts into the painted area.

"Lacey Floral," which earned an honorable mention in a recent Farmington Artist Club exhibit, has bouquet elements and an interwoven textural pattern design painted into the watercolor.

"One night after class I began looking at the flowers and painted

one, then another, then another onto the watercolor board, but not as a typical bouquet. I noted the textured tablecloth and added it here and there around the floral shapes. It was a totally unplanned happening and really fun," said the artist.

EACH YEAR Nichols does a tribute painting of poppies in honor of Georgia O'Keeffe and water lilies in honor of Claude Monet.

"Poppy Time," a triptych, represents her admiration of O'Keeffe. It was accepted in the recent Helen De Roy Foundation juried exhibit on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College.

Two pieces, "Happy Time" and "Beyond My Garden" show Tennessee influence. The Nichols summer studio is on a mountain overlooking Squatchie Valley and the small town of Pikeville. The valley is laid out in patterns of color and shapes with farms, fields, trees and a mountain range beyond. Those patterns are reflected in these two pieces and the larger piece called "Trises."

Nichols still has some traditional paintings in her repertoire as well. "I have a collection of photos from 30 years of travel and each one gives different inspiration," she said.

Nichols just delivered five large paintings to Gerald Potter, principal of Farmington High School, as a gift to honor the school's 100th anniversary.

The paintings are very traditional in style. There are a seasonal trio in oil, "Fall," "Winter," and "Summer." The other two are acrylics with building subjects from her travels, "Sittin' Place" and "The Red Door."

The school holds many memories for the 1956 graduate. She and her husband met at Farmington High, both returned after college to teach there and both sons are graduates of the school.

Nichols collaborated with Lee S. Peel, retired Farmington High School teacher in illustrating his book, "Speak Easy, Read Write."

NOW NICHOLS is teaching at Royal Oak Campus of Oakland Community College for Leo Dworkin, who is on sabbatical. Her teaching load includes drawing, design and printmaking.

"The combination is as challenge — shifting directions and materials — but has further stimulated my new painting explorations. I plan to continue the new approach into more paintings to see where it leads," she said.

The show will be on exhibit in the downtown library through late December. Her paintings can also be seen at the Earth and Art Gallery in Milford and in her home studio by appointment. For information you can reach her at 474-5137.



Alice Nichols



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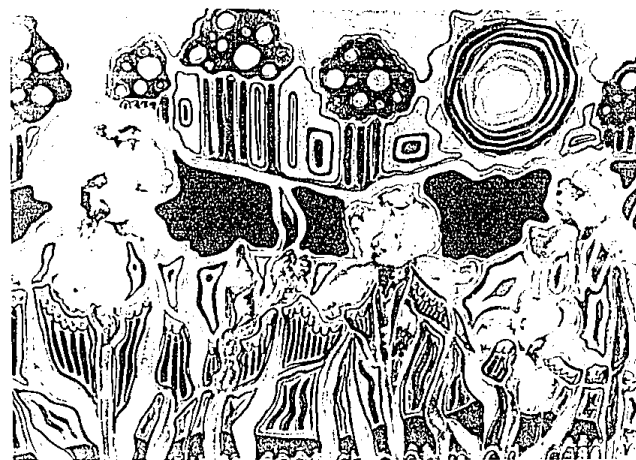
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"Trises" by Alice Nichols is a new work that shows the artist's trend toward patterns of design. The piece is now on exhibit in the Quiet Room of Farmington Branch Library.

Yessian studio keeps expanding

Effective February, 1990, Yessian Music will expand its studio operation to 24 track-midi service with three on staff synthesists for video-post. Additional equipment has been installed such as the emulator 3 and M-I which contain a myriad of sound from the synthesizer and fairlight systems.

Recently, Yessian has scored three national spots for TV: Heartbeat of Chevrolet and AC Delco Motorsports through Campbell Ewald; and "Oldsmobile Edge" and Leo Burnett USA.

Other music includes national and regional radio and television for "Mr. Turkey," the Detroit News-JOA

and White Castle.

In the past several years the music company has brought business to Michigan with a variety of out state advertising agencies, primarily from the east and Midwest.

With a total staff of 12, Dan Yessian Music is in Farmington Hills, established in 1971.

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