

Monday, March 23, 1981

## Marilyn Lilygren

# A look into the past with a sense of timelessness

By LORAIN MCCLISH

The one-woman show of the works of Marilyn Lilygren, now on display in Farmington Community Library, has a strong feeling of antiquity about it. The pictures give a look into the past, yet there is a sense of timelessness to them.

"I've always had a feeling for North American Indians," the Farmington Hills woman said of her most recent works that were influenced by trips to Arizona, Nevada and Colorado.

She doesn't paint while she's traveling, but rather strives to observe colors, shapes, atmosphere and the general feeling of the area.

Her treks up and down ladders and in and out of the cliff dwellings were supplemented with picking up sand pebbles, raw turquoise, silver or mountain rock that she sometimes uses with her paintings.

This, combined with the earth colors she uses in her bas relief, amounts to capturing an entire culture.

The method used for her American Indian series is much the same as she's

used for a series of Mexican paintings, and before that, Egyptian paintings.

MRS. LILYGRN calls herself a "natural painter."

"If you used that expression to another artist, they would take it to mean you were untrained. Or that you were not influenced by one teacher. Or that you followed no one particular school of art," she said.

"I studied art, but studied under several teachers, and really not for a long time. The method of bas relief that I use is my own. I'm using marble dust for my base now, but I'm starting to experiment with hydrostone.

"And I am never a slave to the original sketch I make for any painting."

All of her paintings are acrylics, some with college materials added over the layered-on marble dust mixture that creates a deep textured sculptural bas relief.

Some might be as smooth and satiny as the look of a cameo, but she prefers the rough and weathered look in keeping with the Egyptian and Indian ancient themes.

She works in a spontaneous manner, usually starting with a basic drawing of what she has in mind, but says as she progresses, "I like to let things develop naturally. The result is a reflection of my feelings and observations on that particular subject."

MRS. LILYGRN and her husband serve as each other's critics. He is a metal sculptor, and both are recent members of Farmington Artists Club.

Together they travel to art fairs and shows throughout Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Florida.

"The outdoor shows are our favorites," Mrs. Lilygren said, "because you can meet and talk with the shoppers. They are very frank with you. We get a good feel for how they feel about our work. It is ever so much better than putting your work in a gallery. We travel with our van filled right up to the roof, and we're all sold out by the end of every summer."

staff photos  
by  
Randy Borst

The couple have their spring and summer shows lined up now: "But just the juried shows, just the ones that are selling quality," she said.

Weather is not a problem for the artists.

"With 12 layers (on the bas relief) these paintings are impervious to anything. Some could be hung out-of-doors and not be disturbed," she said.

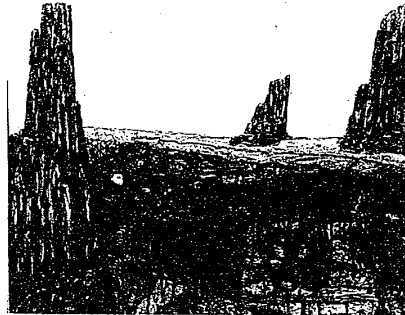
THE LILYGRNS were their own architects for the home they built in Farmington Hills two years ago.

A long waiting list for membership into Farmington Artists Club, coupled with their traveling agenda, prevented Mrs. Lilygren from showing her works in recent local shows here.

But she is finishing up a couple of her paintings in the Indian series for entry in Farmington Artists Club's spring show.

Of the club, she said, "It's the best one I've ever belonged to. With all those top-notch artists, it keeps you on your toes."

Her show in Farmington Community Library remains through March 30. The library is at 23550 Liberty Street.



The bas reliefs shown above and below were created with many layers of marble dust, acrylic media and paint on a foundation of masonite. The design is sculpted and etched into the relief, sanded, then finished with glaze and subtle hues of paint. A final varnish protects and highlights the textured relief. Edge or down lighting lends a dramatic effect to the finished work.



Marilyn Lilygren will use raw turquoise brought back from a recent trip to Colorado to enhance the painting she's working on now that will be submitted for the juried art gallery in Farmington Artists Club's spring show.

## Learning disabled adults share coping techniques

A group of eight young adults with learning disabilities will share their feelings and experiences while growing up with the handicapping syndrome at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26 in Farmington Hills Community Library.

The event is sponsored by Farmington Chapter of Michigan Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (MACLD) who introduce the newly formed MACLD Young Adult Support Team to parents, professionals and teens concerned with learning disabilities in the area.

The program, called "There is Life After High School" is especially important for learning disabled teens.

"This may take some pushing by the parents," said Ruth Schade speaking for the group, "but it will be worth it. We are beginning to find out that the LD adult may prove to be the most valuable source of information and direction yet discovered on how to best help the child with learning disabilities."

THE YOUNG Adult Support Team grew out of a post-secondary committee of MACLD that was formed to search out the college opportunities available to learning disabled adolescents who have finished high school.

Its purpose is to act as a forum to improve the quality of life for learning disabled young adults and to act as an advocate for these persons in conjunction with the parent organization.

Its objectives is to increase awareness of the need to improve educational skills, vocational skills and job survival skills. It provides a vehicle for the learning disabled to socialize and express themselves in order to promote peer support.

It has been charged with establishing educational workshops and to act as an

*"The learning-disabled adult may prove to be the most valuable source of information and direction yet discovered on how to best help the child with learning disabilities."*

— Ruth Schade  
Farmington Chapter  
MACLD

advocate in pursuit of legislation and adaptations which will benefit the young adults.

The team's first appearance here will tell of their current coping, survival and success skills in college and, or, on the job as young adults.

Several mothers of those on the team will tell of their roles in this behalf. Of that Mrs. Schade said, "It's a fine line. You have to know when to let them do it themselves and when it is time for you to step in and intervene."

"IN THE back of their minds, parents, teachers and indeed the adolescent with LD wonder and perhaps worry about what life will be like without the public school special education programs, special ed resource rooms and special ed teachers.

"We are hoping that those attending the meeting will be inspired by what these young people have to say.

"In the early days of awareness of learning disabilities as a handicapping syndrome, it was theorized that if children with LD were identified and treated early enough they would all be cured before reaching adulthood.

"Time has proven that at least in moderate-to-severe learning disabilities, this is not true."

Maturity does seem to erase some of the symptoms when he or she specializes in an area of strength. But new problems often replace the old ones and life generally is not easy when left without the support of schools and teachers.

"However," Mrs. Schade said, "because the LD adult has learned through much experience how to endure frustration; that he must work harder than the next guy to reach his goals; that he is a bright, creative and sensitive individual, many a LD-adult eventually leads a successful and productive life."

Inquiries about the support team will be taken by contacting Doug King, 382-0372 or Richard Applebaum, 545-0990.

THE 1981 MACLD Conference on Young Adults will run all day Saturday, May 2, on Oakland Community College's new Southfield campus.

It is open to all learning disabled adults and all persons in any way involved with them.

Themes for the conference is "Young Adults Journey Into the World."

Workshops for the conference are "Techniques in Remediation for LD Adults in a College Setting," "Career and Vocational Training and Planning," "Survival Skills in School and on the Job," "Sexuality, Dating and Socialization," and "Dealing With Stress."

Conference information and registration brochures that will be sent upon request, is available by calling Eileen Maurer, 557-7465.

President of Farmington Chapter MACLD is Pat Hohl, who will take inquiries by calling her at 478-4784.

There is no charge for the meeting in Farmington Hills Community Library, 33737 12 Mile Road.

## Ethan Allen floor sample sale

March is a great month at Wiggs, for you! Just the slightest hint of Spring, and we are busy, busy, busy clearing, and tagging, and moving furniture around, all to make way for the exciting new Ethan Allen designs coming in. We have an excellent selection of floor sample Home Furnishings priced for immediate clearance at savings from 25% to 47%! Choose for bedroom, living room, dining room. Some odds 'n' ends, some accessories and some "as-is" items that are irresistible. Here's your chance to own famous Ethan Allen quality designs at marvelous savings! Hurry in while our selection lasts.

### 31 PIECES OF FINE UPHOLSTERY....

Ethan Allen quality shows in our upholstery selection...Chairs, Restaurant Recliners, Loveseats, Sofas, Sleepers. Whatever your taste...casual or formal, classic or transitional...you're sure to find a bargain that's just right!

### 22 PIECES FOR BEDROOM, DINING ROOM & DINETTE...

We have an excellent assortment of odds 'n' ends from our bedroom series including maple, pine, cherry, white and yellow Custom Room Plan. Our dining collection includes Royal Charter oak, cherry, maple tables, chairs and some buffets with hutches.

### 38 OCCASIONAL PIECES...

Now is the time to "fill-in" your Ethan Allen rooms with selections from our famous collections. We have Occasional Tables, Cocktail Tables, Endtables, Bookshelves, Wain Units, End Tables...a marvelous gathering of miscellaneous pieces priced just right!

### 47 ACCESSORIES OF ALL KINDS...

Save now on Ethan Allen Accessories...the "perfect touch" to complete your room. We have some Pictures, Lamps, Mirrors, Cigarette Tables, Ceramics and Sofa Pillows. All are colorful, accents, beautifully priced!

### MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS TODAY...

All Sales Final! Immediate delivery on all choices...Items subject to prior sale...

WE HONOR VISA CARD, MASTER CARD, WIGGS PLAN 25.  
OPEN MONDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVES. 'TIL 9.

*Wiggs*



Telegraph at Long Lake Rd., (18-Mile) Bloomfield Hills • 644-7370