



Corinne Abatt editor/644-1100

(F)1E

Barn yarns: Photo-artist solves mystery of big portraits

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

"It became a treasure hunt," said Winston.

JUDITH WINSTON'S photo-art show, "Visualities," at Pierce Street Gallery through June 29 is clear documentation of what separates the pros from the amateurs.

For the nine enlarged, hand-painted photographs in the barn series which is at least half of the show, she took a subject that was open to all Michigan photographers, improvised, researched and came up with a spectacular presentation.

Winston, who lives in Los Angeles, grew up in Detroit. Her parents now live in Bloomfield Hills, so she's back quite frequently in the summers.

She had been a successful fashion photographer in San Francisco with a decided preference for black and white. When she moved to Los Angeles, "everybody wanted color" and she soon became bored with the rather rigid requirements.

"I started to do hand coloring to relieve the monotony," she said.

As she was practicing on photos from her files, she pulled out one of a barn with a painting of the Mona Lisa on it that she had taken during the summer of 1972 when she was driving on Halsted Road in Farmington Hills. She shot it in black and white using a yellow filter to bring out the clouds.

After she painted the photo (using aniline watercolor dyes), she gave it to her mother who was told by a friend that there were other barns with similar paintings. In 1979 her search for more of the barns began.

He (Doug Tyler) painted the barns between 1968 and 1972 while he was an art student and told her he did them because he wanted to "bring art to the people."

SINCE Winston admits being fascinated with art work and photography that has a sense of mystery, the treasure hunt was an ideal project. She asked questions, drove country roads, and followed leads that turned out to be blind alleys.

By that time, the original Mona Lisa had burned down, but eventually they turned up two more barn paintings on Haggerty — a second Mona Lisa on one side of the road and the Duke of Urbino on the other.

They were so weathered, the images were almost unrecognizable. The slats on Mona Lisa's face were missing, but Winston knew the image could be saved with the help of filters and her color technique.

Next they found Baldassare Castiglione on a barn near Hartland and Paul Revere (by Copley), on old 23, north of Fawcett.

A portrait of the artist's (at that time unknown) father as a boy turned in the Fenton area, but wouldn't be in the proper light for several months.

One of the most exciting of the barn paintings, that of a Japanese gisha, from an 18th century Japanese print, was already lost. The barn had burned, but Baltazar Korab, had photographed it for Horizon magazine and was willing to loan Winston his negative which she cropped to her format.

She found "Portrait of a Man," nine miles north of Howell and the last one, a self-portrait of the artist, on a barn almost completely hidden by the corn



Judith Winston talks about her plans for a book with the photograph of the barn with the self-portrait of artist Doug Tyler behind her. The first time she saw it, the barn and portrait were almost hidden by tall corn. She returned early the following spring to get her shot.

Staff photos by Jerry
Zolynsky

around it and not photographable a until the following spring when the field was clear.

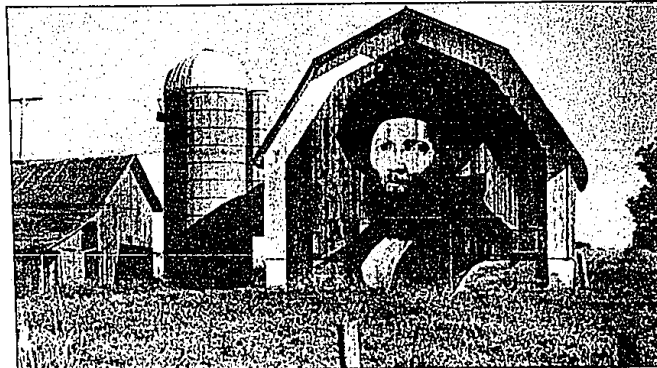
On a transcontinental business trip, she got off the plane in Detroit one dreary April day. Her mother was there to meet her and the two drove out to shoot the remaining barn, one step ahead of angry neighbors threatening to call the sheriff.

Later she found her "unknown artist," Doug Tyler, teaching at St. Mary College in South Bend, Ind.

HE PAINTED the barns between 1968 and 1972 while an art student and told her he did them because he wanted to "bring art to the people." About half way through the project he did get NEA funding.

Winston said, "I feel real lucky I could take his work and augment."

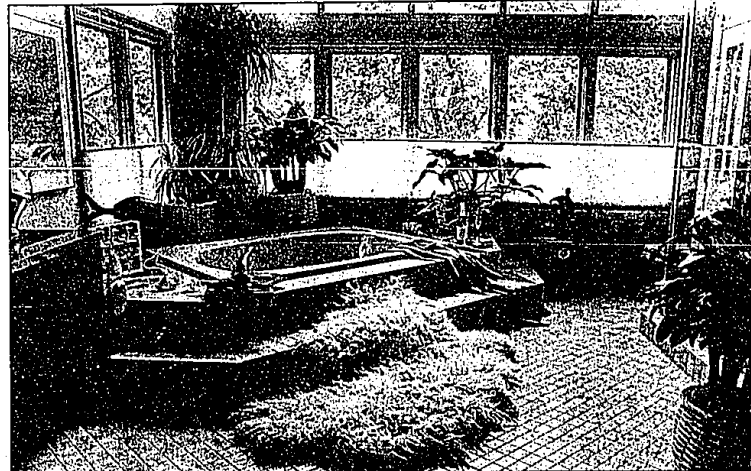
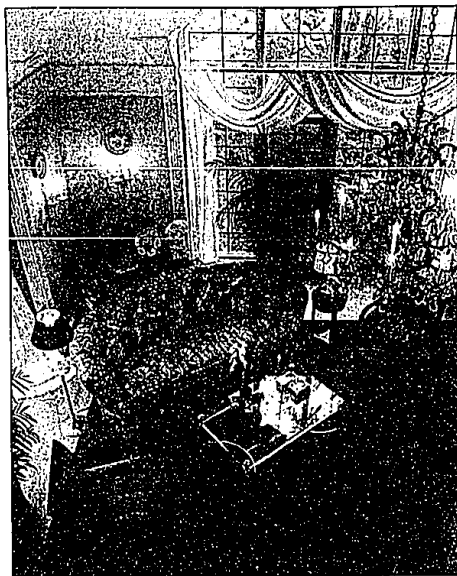
Her intent with the dyes isn't to duplicate nature, but to enhance the photo-



The portrait of the Duke of Urbino is on Haggerty Road in Farmington Hills. This and the Mona Lisa across the road were among the easier ones to find.

Please turn to Page 6

Symphony showhouse — trends in a romantic setting . . .



Staff photos
by
Jerry
Zolynsky

This year's Detroit Symphony ASID Showhouse in Echo Park, Bloomfield Hills, was built by Artl A. Leo, Woodbridge Homes Inc. The interior, by 16 ASID studios, is full of trend-setting ideas. At left: a part of the great room, done by four members of Hudson's Interior Design Studio, shows the neo-classical lines against a

palette of grays, reds, burgundy and other jewel tones. The master bathroom (above) by Loretta Miles Design Associates is shades of taupe and gray with a splash of tangerine. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Saturday, 8-9 Thursday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, 1244 Copperwood.