

Creative Living

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Nature: rich backdrop for painter's creations

By Linda Ann Chomin
special writer

INTERNATIONALLY exhibited artist Lilya Pavlovic-Dear sees through the eyes of nature.

She views the outside world from inside the environment of a beehive, a coral reef or looking downward on the continents of Earth as if from a satellite, poised in the outer universe, Pavlovic-Dear's paintings and drawings thus depict nature and Earth.

Her one-person exhibition, "The Land and the Sea," opened Feb. 3 in the Ann Arbor gallery of Clare Spiller Works of Art. The environmentally conscious show continues through March 26.

"I'm not using the view of things on an eye level, but from a microscopic or macroscopic view," said Lilya Pavlovic-Dear during an interview in her Farmington Hills home. "The view is somewhat closer to the way science sees things."

Yugoslavian born Pavlovic-Dear said she uses "two different themes" in her current exhibit, "The Land and the Sea."

"In the first, the landscapes are seen from an airplane, or like satellites might take a picture," Pavlovic-Dear said. "You don't recognize rivers or trees." "By choosing colors of cultures as (is seen) in African tribal masks or a turquoise-green from the background of China, I show the eternal soul of a continent, with relation to old cultures."

USING THE first theme,

Pavlovic-Dear said, "I did six continents, but not Antarctica."

Pavlovic-Dear created the continent of "Africa" using earth tones. India ink, pastel and acrylic on paper coalesce to depict the geographical outline of Africa against a stable, striped latitudinal background, which leads the eye to focus on the interior terrain.

Inside a realistic outline of the African continent, Pavlovic-Dear plays the patterns of geometric shapes against abstract forms in an almost mosaiced or stained glass manner. Patterns of colored shapes create mosaic-like forms.

Pavlovic-Dear's description paints a visual for her intent.

"I used a simple, striped background," Pavlovic-Dear said, "to symbolize a quiet backdrop. The contrasting continent is very alive, crowded with lots of forms inside."

The second theme Pavlovic-Dear uses in her current exhibit is the sea. "The sea I did in images of corals and tropical fish," Pavlovic-Dear said. "I was inspired by the sea as an eternal source of life."

Pavlovic-Dear began by collecting sea shells, a lifelong activity.

"When I was young I'd go to the Mediterranean Sea to collect shells. These shapes and images have been



Left: "Africa" is a culmination of India ink, pastel and acrylic on paper. Patterns of geometric shapes create abstract, mosaic-like forms within the realistic geographical outline of the African continent.

In my subconscious for a long time."

After drawing and sketching them, she begins her work.

From a book written in French by Jacques Cousteau about the life and death of corals, Pavlovic-Dear said she receives inspiration from the "photographs of nature."

The intent of Pavlovic-Dear's "Corals" is a view of the sea, from inside a coral reef. Turquoise dominates a honeycombed picture plane as she projects what she sees from inside of the coral's interior. Recurrent circular patterns take form then undulate, giving the work a lyrical, flowing sense, like the sea. Although Pavlovic-Dear works mostly in acrylic and oil on canvas, she said, "I liked to experiment with different media. I did experiment over a period of time painting on wood or metal."

Pavlovic-Dear earned a bachelor of arts degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. She completed postgraduate studies at Chelsea College of Arts in London. Painting, mosaic and fresco were predominate areas of study for Pavlovic-Dear. Her painting and drawing show influence of the mosaic studies in particular.

"LILYA HAS that special way of looking at the world and getting it down on canvas and paper," Clare Spiller said.

Spiller owns the gallery, Clare Spiller Works of Art. In 1985, she opened her first art gallery, Gallery One in Cleveland. In 1977, she moved it to downtown Ann Arbor.

Since 1981, she has been at the location on Pauline Ct. Spiller strives to exhibit art that is unique as well as exclusive.

Media exhibited at the Ann Arbor gallery includes painting, sculpture, graphics, prints, glass and pottery. Gallery art is priced from \$25 for a small, unframed print to \$4,000 for a large oil on canvas.

All of the pieces in Pavlovic-

Dear's current show are 40 by 60 inches.

DISPLAYED OVER an off-white sectional sofa in her Farmington Hills home is her largest painting, the stunning turquoise "Corals" at 103 by 80 inches.

Pavlovic-Dear said because she usually works so large, her paintings and drawings are "made for bigger architecture spaces." From the Mini Print Exhibition in Barcelona to the galleries of New York, Los Angeles, Paris and Belgrade, Pavlovic-Dear's art abstractly stated her philosophy in a steady stream of exhibitions over the last 20 years.

"Man is destroying nature with pollution," Pavlovic-Dear said. "Man should live with nature. We are part of nature."

Clare Spiller Works of Art is at 2007 Pauline Ct. in Ann Arbor. Gallery hours are 2-6 p.m. on Tuesdays, and by appointment.

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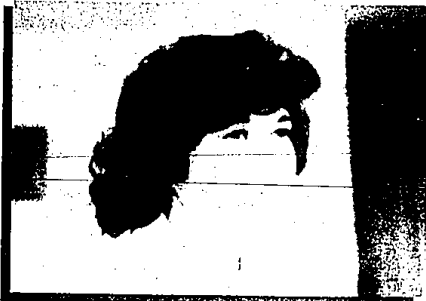
— Lilya Pavlovic-Dear
painter



Lilya Pavlovic-Dear is seated in front of 103-inch by 80-inch "Corals." Recurrent honeycombs give "Corals" a lyrical, flowing sense of the sea as seen from the interior of a coral reef.

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Right: "Blue Corals" is part of Lilya Pavlovic-Dear's exhibit at Clare Spiller Works of Art in Ann Arbor. Turquoise dominates the honeycombed work as seen from the interior of a coral reef. The acrylic on canvas is priced at \$3,500.

