

Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



Bob Sklar editor/591-2300

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(F11E)

Painting-a-day keeps her in the 'now'

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

IN HER ART CLASSES AND IN HER studio, Leslie Masters sees the world through rainbow-colored glasses. Two strengths come to mind at the mention of her name — her deep involvement with and commitment to the arts and her penchant for using the colors of the rainbow in her work. Both of these strengths will be much in evidence in her exhibition, "Sun," opening Tuesday at the County Galleria in the Executive Office Building of the Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. Reception 6-8 p.m. Tuesday. Music at the reception will be provided by her daughter, Elaine Masters, flutist.

Masters, former assistant director of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, still teaches there as well as at Schoolcraft College of Livonia and at the Ann Arbor Art Association. In recent years, her world has widened while her art work has become more focused and the palette richer and stronger. That's the kind of dichotomy a person like Masters thrives on.

Another contradiction is that while as she says, "they are getting more and more abstract as I go along," for her they are filled with meaning and memories.

HOW COULD THAT BE? Well, ever since she and her husband, Frank Villani, moved to a lakefront home near Ypsilanti, she has been watching the sky and the water with increasing fascination. Just like her hero, Monet, watched the pond by his home in Giverny, France, recorded its changing moods, and made himself immortal. She made her first visit to Giverny about a year ago.

"It took a year before I knew what I wanted to paint," Masters said as she described her preparations for



Leslie Masters said that one of the moments she wants to remember forever took place while she was swimming in front of her home when the lake was quiet. It was the first time she really noticed the beautiful, changing color patterns on the surface of the water. She tried to capture some of that "bliss" in this painting.

this show, yet when she did, she produced a large body of work. She will be showing 18 large abstracts and many smaller sketches and paintings. Several of the big ones are just reflections of the sky after the sun goes down with the color still in the clouds. . . we have a big pontoon boat and we go out there and I paint."

Consequently her entire show, (her

first in 15 years) representing more than three years of work is based on nature — sun, sky, water. She wrote about the show, "I'm keeping trying to capture light — an impossible task, but a never ending joy."

She recalled that as she focused on her subjects, "I painted everyday for a year. . . I set up a schedule of doing it every day. It's a lot of work — it got to the point where I was

glad when it rained."

Her painting of 365 squares, some overcast and gray, but many more with a rainbow of colors, will be in the exhibition, but she may not want to part with it, because it's a visual diary of the sky on every day of that year and in that sense, very personal.

"Then, I didn't realize," she said,



The artist is Leslie Masters. The painting is her visual diary of the sky for a year. She has included the names of the months and occasionally where she was or what she was doing.

Staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky

"How much I would miss it." As a result, she has maintained the discipline of painting each day and will have paintings in the show in which she documented things that happened to her over a month's time. "Once I got used to painting everyday, I couldn't give it up."

THIS FOLLOWS HER "now" philosophy, "It makes you appreciate the everydayness more — to stay in the 'now,'" she said, adding that she doesn't want to wish her life away, but, rather enjoy and savor each moment. So, she walks out on her dock to see the sunrise each morning and everyday, she makes a piece of art. And she may be out there at night as well. After

living in Troy for many years, the bigger, star-filled night sky is another delight. Masters has a degree in fine arts from Indiana University and is a master's degree candidate at University of Michigan. She has been in individual and group shows at Rubiner Gallery of West Bloomfield, Lafayette Art Center, Lafayette, Ind., Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, Canton Art Institute, Canton, Ohio, Detroit Artists Market and the Pontiac Art Center among others.

The County Galleria is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and during this show will be open noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays, April 20 and Sunday, April 21.

exhibitions

This column runs weekly in Creative Living. Send news items about Oakland County events to The Executive Arts Center, Birmingham 48009. Send items about Wayne County events to The Observer, 26251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Attention: Creative Living editor.

● COUNTY GALLERIA
Tuesday, March 19 — "Sun," 18 large abstracts by Leslie Masters and "Image, Light and Structure '91," a juried exhibit of works by 30 stained glass artists, continue through April. Reception for the artists is 6-8 p.m. Tuesday. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21. Executive Office Building, Oakland County Complex, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

● DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Tuesday, March 19 — 50 posters by David Hoeky, sponsored by Michigan Opera Theatre and Ford Motor Company, are on display through May. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and 1-9 p.m. Wednesday, third floor exhibit hall, 5201 Woodward, Detroit.

● SISSON GALLERY
Wednesday, March 20 — Sculpture by James Lutynski and Brian Hust is on display through April 19. Reception 6-8 p.m. Wednesday. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and until 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, MacKenzie Fine Arts Center, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 E. Green, Dearborn.

● DETROIT ARTISTS MARKET
Friday, March 22 — "Drawings Invitational" continues through April 19. Reception 5-7:30 p.m. Friday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1452 Randolph, Detroit.

● ELIZABETH STONE GALLERY
Saturday, March 23 — "Dream Days" features paintings by children's book illustrators Chuck Gillies and Kat Thacker. Reception 6-9 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 500 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● FEIGENSON/PRESTON GALLERY
Saturday, March 23 — New oil

paintings by New York artist Jane Hammond are on display through April 27. Reception for the artist is 3-5 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 736 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● SWIDLER GALLERY
Saturday, March 23 — Ceramic vessels by John Gill of Alfred, N.C., and ceramic mantle sculptural pieces by Gregory A. Zeorlin of Tyler, Texas. Reception 6-8:30 p.m. Saturday. Zeorlin will give a lecture at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 308 W. Fourth, Royal Oak.

● U-M MUSEUM OF ART
Saturday, March 23 — "Radio: Thirty Years of Drawing" is a retrospective of more than 100 drawings by Puddo Puddat, Inuit artist. He lives in Cape Dorset, but will be at the reception 4-6 p.m. Saturday and participate in a program of conversation at 5 p.m. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, until 5 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor.

● TROY ART GALLERY
Mixed media works by gallery artists marks the first show in a new location continuing through April 27. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 515 S. Lafayette at Sixth, Royal Oak.

● DONALD MORRIS GALLERY
First exhibition of drawings by William Boley continues through April 13. His focus is the nude and still life and his paintings have been shown internationally. This is the first time he has shown his drawings exclusively. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 105 Townsend, Birmingham.

● RUSSELL KLATT GALLERY
Cast paper and resin sculptures by Frank Gallo, internationally recognized artist who heads the sculpture department at University of Illinois, are being shown through May. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and until 5 p.m. Saturday, 1467 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

● DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
"Florence Henri Artist-Photographer of the Avant-Garde" is an exhibit of 90 black and white photos she took in Europe between the two world wars. "Alma College Col-

lection: A Decade of Michigan Printmaking" includes works by many metro area artists. Both shows continue through May 5. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, 5200 Woodward, Detroit.

● T'MARRA GALLERY
Group show by gallery artists features works by Russell Thayer, Bruce Thayer, Donald Mendelson, Lawrence Barker, Celis Perez, Jean Rosenblum and Paul Stewart. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 111 N. First, Ann Arbor.

● WATFORD FRIENDS OF THE ARTS
"The Art of Education Inspiration for the '90s" features works by arts faculty members from six area colleges and universities. Through March 26. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 1415 Crescent Lake Road, Pontiac.

● LAWRENCE STREET GALLERY
"New Beginnings" is the third year grand opening welcoming 15 new artist members. Opening is 6-9 p.m. Friday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 29 W. Lawrence, Pontiac.

● ALICE SIMSAR GALLERY
"Fiber On and Off the Wall" features works by Jason Collingwood, Peter Collingwood, Lia Cook, Rich and Smith, Sherri Smith and Martha Stanley. Continues through April 20. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 301 N. Main, Ann Arbor.

● TEMPLE BETH EL
"A Heritage of Light: Temple Beth El 1850-1990," continues through June and includes photographs, works of art and extensive background material on this religious institution. Open during regular Temple hours. Group tours available, 7400 Telegraph at 14 Mile, Bloomfield Township.

● GREAT OAKS MALL
Michigan Weavers Guild is holding its eighth exhibit and sale at the mall through March 23. Featured is work by 100 fiber artists from southeast Michigan and Canada. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday-until 9 p.m. Thursday-Priday, north east corner Livernois and Walton Blvd, Rochester.

● D&M STUDIO AND GALLERY
Gallery member Sue Argeroff, specialist in marbling technique is displaying her work, including paintings, silk scarves, jewelry and other items. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 710 N. Mill, Old Village Plymouth.

● CREATIVE ARTS CENTER
"The Unemployed Autoworker," an installation of photos, video and people by Carlos Diaz, continues through April 2. Diaz is an assistant professor at Center for Creative Studies of Detroit. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, until 2 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 47 Williams, Pontiac.

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