



Muchas Cosas



Art Essentials features local artists in eclectic show



Detail of oil by Lois Torres, Sapello

Article and photos by
SALLY HANSON/For the Optic

Art Essentials Gallery is now showing the work of 11 area artists. A reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 16.

Featured artists are Sharon (Maggi) Carleton, Annette P. Clancy, Jackie (Jade) Herrera, Connie Mack, Susan McIntyre, Nellie Price, Eleanor Sandoval, Jeff Smollett, Lois Torres, Lina Valdez and Laura Wilson.

This show is a real potpourri of color, media, style and subject.

Media variety includes Connie Mack's pink/orange/red

tissue-paper flowers—up to six feet tall and on natural twigs, her hand-painted framed feathers under glass and an oil painting of a new moon amid blue-black clouds.

Then there's Sharon Carleton's use of glitter in a forest scene including ghostly wolves, real feathers in a Native American boy's hair and drum, and leather in a painting of an American Indian man at his loom.

Nellie Price's linocut, monoprint, wood cut, and oil painting extend the variety of media available for viewing and purchase.

Artistic styles range from Lina Valdez' realistic portrayals of American Indian people, pueblos and pots to Jeff Smollett's abstracts whose subjects are suggested only by the shades and intensity of the colors he chooses, with "Western Summer" represented by pastel blues, greens and oranges from a summer sunset.

Annette P. Clancy is experimenting with "pouring" and "dabbing," techniques used by Jackson Pollock, although in a vastly different style.

Clancy wets rice paper, pours or dabs and lets the colors run, then steps back to see what she sees in it. "I will outline or highlight areas or add things that it seems should be there," She said.

The effect produced by these methods is illustrated by her "dab" painting of a fish in a multicolored sea. When the paint stopped running, it looked like an underwater scene, Clancy said, so she added the fish. The result is hazy, dreamy and watery.

Variety of topic also makes this show interesting.

Laura Wilson's work ranges from a portrait of a baby (she does portraits on commission) to a painting of the Carriage House garden to a depiction of a menacing bear entitled "Growl!" She also has prints available.

Jackie (Jade) Herrera shows Southwestern scenes from the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Angel Fire to a flamenco

dancer in a red dress with gold-fringed shawl.

Susan McIntyre favors flowers with "My Hollyhocks"—bright red, and "Parsley Blooming" in many colors. Lois Torres also likes hollyhocks (pink), wildflowers and stone walls (see photo), but includes another painting of a "Horse Scratching an Itch."

Religious art is represented by Eleanor Sandoval, in bright colors including lots of orange.

The show will run through Aug. 31. Shows at Art Essentials change every 60 days, and receptions are held on the third Friday of every month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The gallery is located at 1001 8th St.



Mixed media, oil with leather by Sharon (Maggi) Carleton