

New main street gallery combines fine furniture, fine art



John Sommer
Ideas and the Arts

A smart, smiling police officer stood in the entrance hall as if on entry duty. In a room beyond him chamber music was played. Lovely flowers and wines and delicacies were arranged on tables. The guests that had been invited to the opening of Georgetown's latest and possibly most elegant art gallery last week, laughed and chatted and had what appeared to be a wonderful time.

The Campbell House Gallery on Main Street combines fine furniture with fine art. Its first exhibition is titled "The French Connection" and is made up of blue chip international art by artists who are either French, or are residing in France. The gallery is a partnership. Janice Campbell is responsible for the furniture and selected luxury items like Waterford Crystal, Raimond Rickevicus, a painter and art entrepreneur, is responsible for the art.

Raimond's friend, the legendary George Rackus, who was, in his younger years, a gallery owner, collector and artist of renown in Toronto, is one of Raimond's sources for art from the international market. George Rackus had the work of great artists like Miro, Roualt, Friedlaender and Vasarely in his gallery, and now Raimond Rickevicus has these same artists represented in his gallery in Georgetown.

Raimond's parents came to this continent from eastern Europe after the last war. He grew up in

Canada but studied art in Minneapolis under Norman Rockwell. In the late 1960s he worked in a Toronto advertising studio for a few years. During the '70s he was on the move, travelling and painting in Canada, the United States and Europe. Eventually he settled in Portugal and married. He still owns property in Portugal and spends at least part of each year there.

His gallery is geared to the serious collector and gallery goer and he hopes to find them even here in our region. Nothing is ordinary at Campbell House Gallery, but neither is the artwork exhibited in any way shocking or far out. Practically every item on the walls of this gallery has proven itself and everybody even faintly familiar with modern art will have encountered pictures and sculptures like this before in art books and magazines.

What is new is the fact that one can view and purchase them here in Georgetown from now on.

My favorites: Several darkly beautiful and compassionate lithographs by Roualt, the French expressionist; a magnificent, eye-catching color lithograph by Miro; a gossamer etching by Friedlaender. The Canadian

painter Joe Plaskett, who is, like so many others, a permanent resident of Paris, is represented with several very fine early pastels. From the paintings hanging in the staircase I particularly like a large and complicated canvas by Zoltan Seimecz bearing the title "Prague." In the back of the entrance hall hangs a sunbaked monoprint by Cecil Troy, a friend from long ago. Twenty years in the past he was an artist with the greatest expectations, but he died young and is today fondly remembered by his artist friends only.

In an intimate basement gallery the most impressive works are a series of lithographs by Danute Jonkaityte, a young artist from Lithuania. Her imagery needs decoding, but once you have done that her lithos will reward you. She uses images of oppression and destruction (spikes, fences, dying vegetation, the all-seeing eye of power) to make you aware of the abuses against nature and humanity that have become such a common feature of all systems east and west. So common that we have difficulties perceiving them as abuses. It's a sobering thought, for instance, that Chernobyl could happen any day in Pickering.

Quit smoking now

The Lung Association's "Countdown" program attempts to educate participants as to the psychological and physical aspects of their smoking habits. Behavior modification and cigarette monitoring are just two of the techniques used to help people quit once and for all. Success rates for this program rate as high as 88 per cent.

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Zone convention on Sunday



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The Zone B7 fall convention will take place at Branch 136 Milton on Sunday, Sept. 24. The general meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRE: High lady, Isobel Landry, second, Jean Harley, most lone hands, Lily Maybanks. High gent, Marg Tutty, second, Edward Stanford, most lone hands, Bert Porter.

Membership chairman Ray Clarke advises me that the early-bird membership drive is now in full force, and will be ending Nov. 30.

Have you noticed the colorful garden display at the Market Street end of the branch? I understand that Nancy Yates and Shell Lawr are responsible, nice touch.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON MEAT DRAW: The spare-ribs

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looked great this week, as did the other assorted meats. The following took them home - Doris Chamberlain, Cliffe Glaude, Colin Gibson, Rita Rayner, Bruce Collins, Jean Narey, Denis McCartney, Bea Clarke, Frank Kirk, Mike Sargent. The roast was won by Simon Fraser.

The Plymouth Group will be holding an "Octoberfest" night on Friday, Oct. 13. Tickets will be available soon at \$5 per person. The presidents supper will be held on Sept. 28, followed by the general meeting. This is the occasion members have to sample the fine food prepared by our Ladies Auxiliary, and receive an update on the affairs of the branch. Don't miss it.

ENTERTAINMENT: In the lounge Saturday, Sept. 23 "Moonlighting." Sept. 30, Hazel and Ken.

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