

Artists take the spotlight in high-traffic lobby

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Toronto's Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts is sporting a whole new artistic flavour these days — thanks to a local foursome.

Currently gracing the cultural facility's orchestra level lobby is 4 Artists, 4 Visions which comprises the work of the Fine Arts Society of Milton's Maureen Casteller, Russell Jodway, Lynn Kelly and Maureen Lipa.

While all are painters, each brings something entirely unique to the collective exhibit, which features more than 100

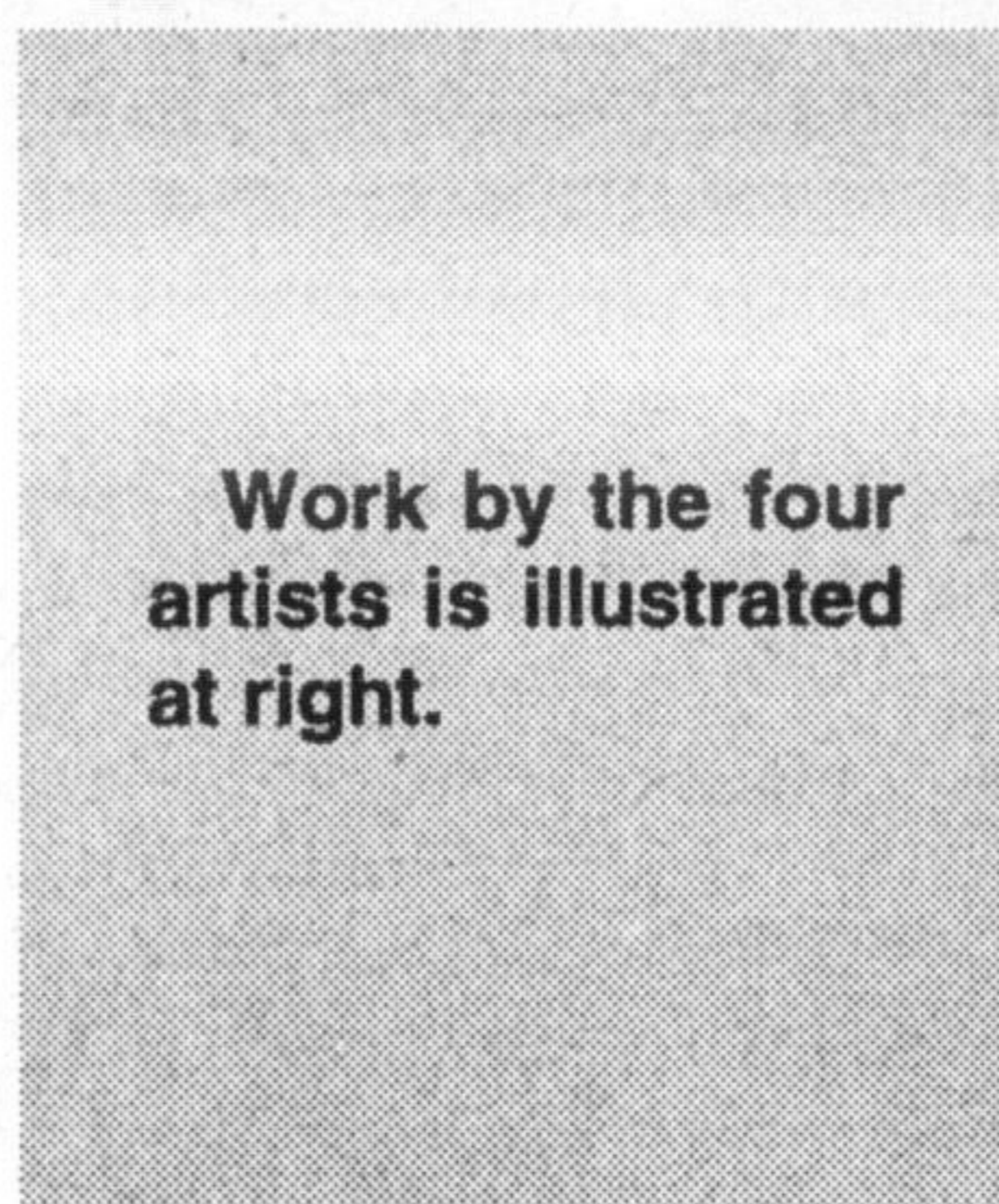
original works.

Blending their individual images into one grand showing, Ms Casteller said, has been quite advantageous.

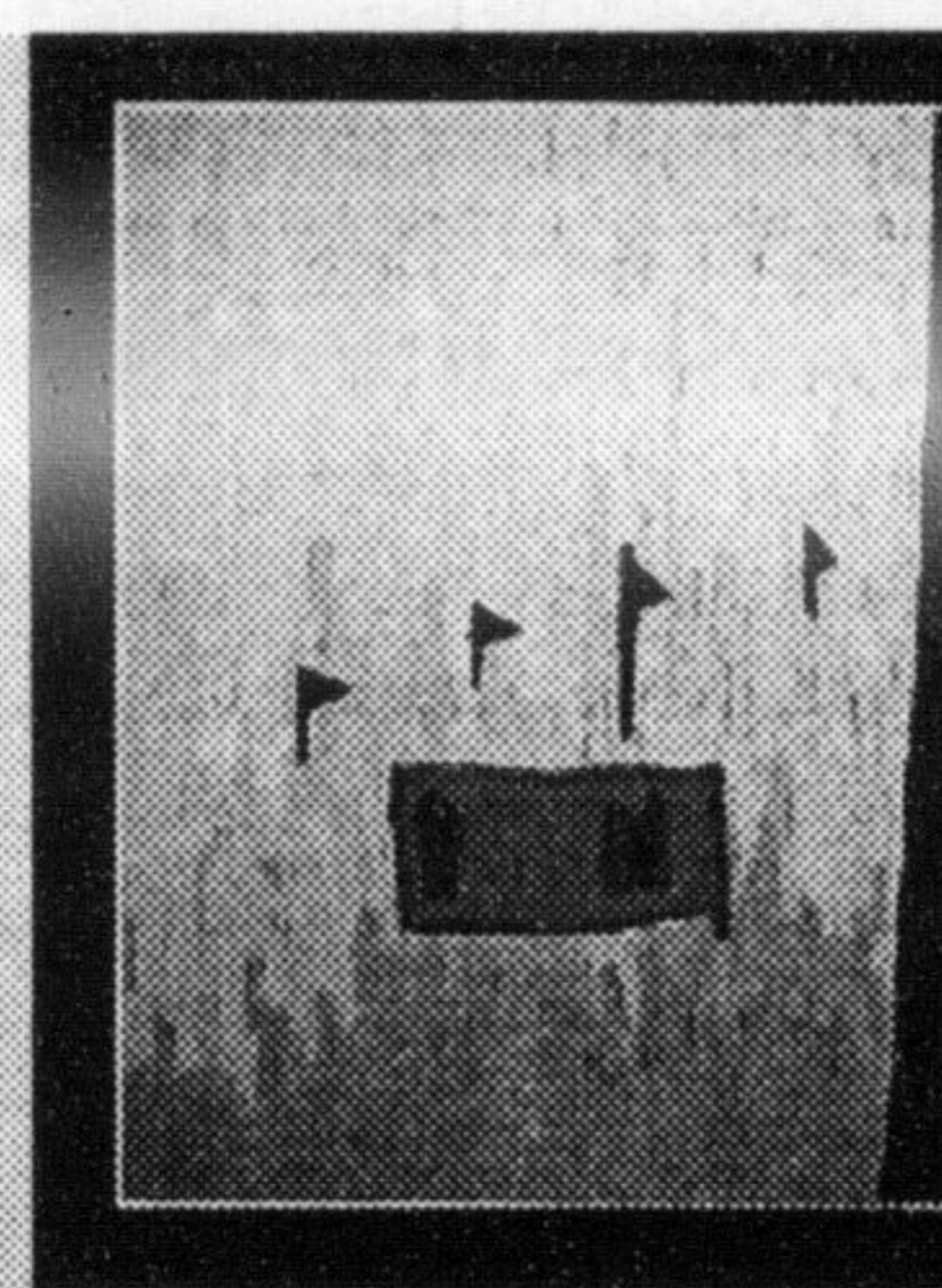
"The response has been wonderful, all four of us have sold pieces," explained the self-described abstract expressionist who paints full-time.

"It's a great venue to display our work. With a number of high profile performers there recently like the Rankin Family and Natalie Merchant, there's certainly been a lot of traffic through."

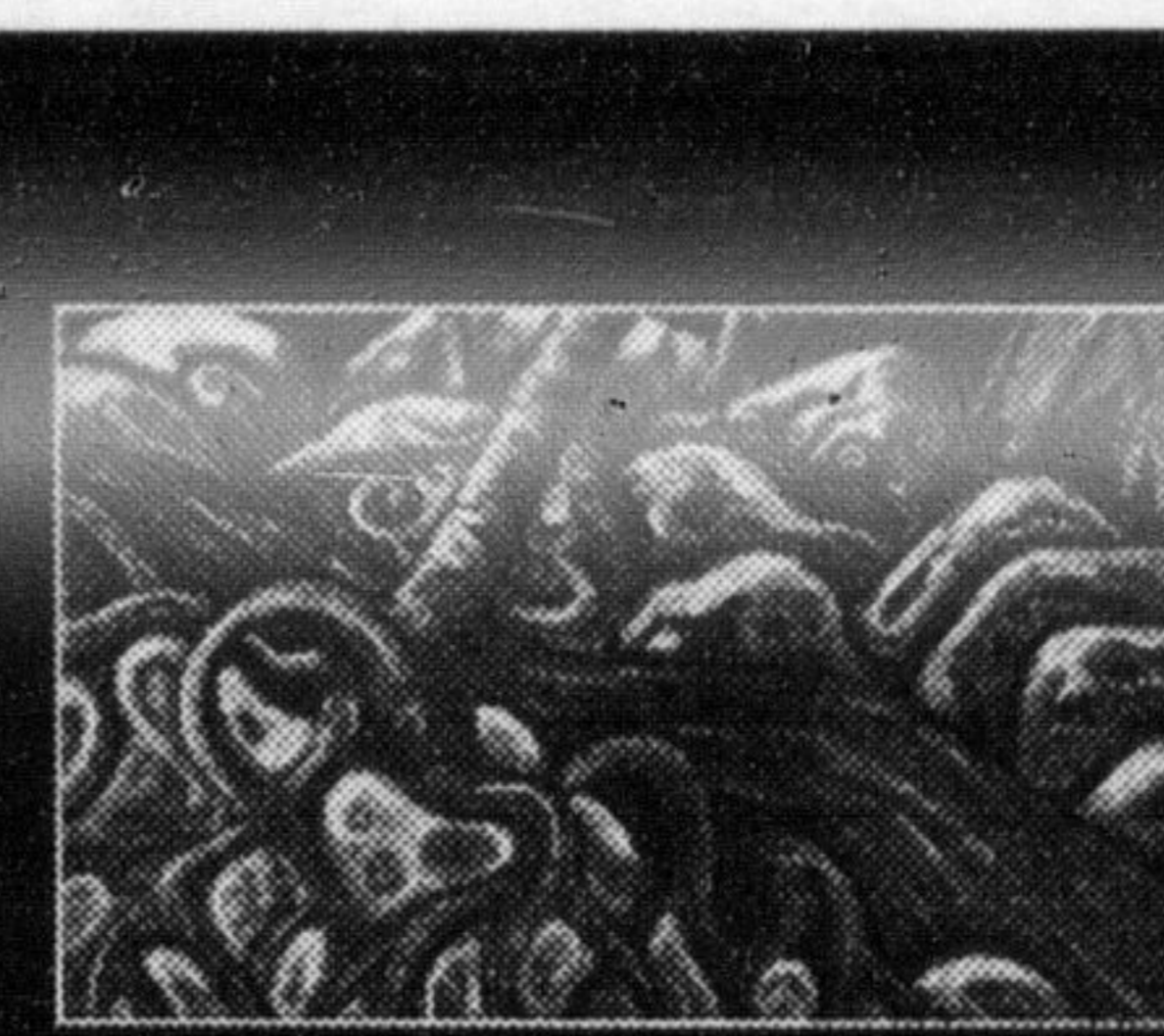
The four painters came to know one another through art



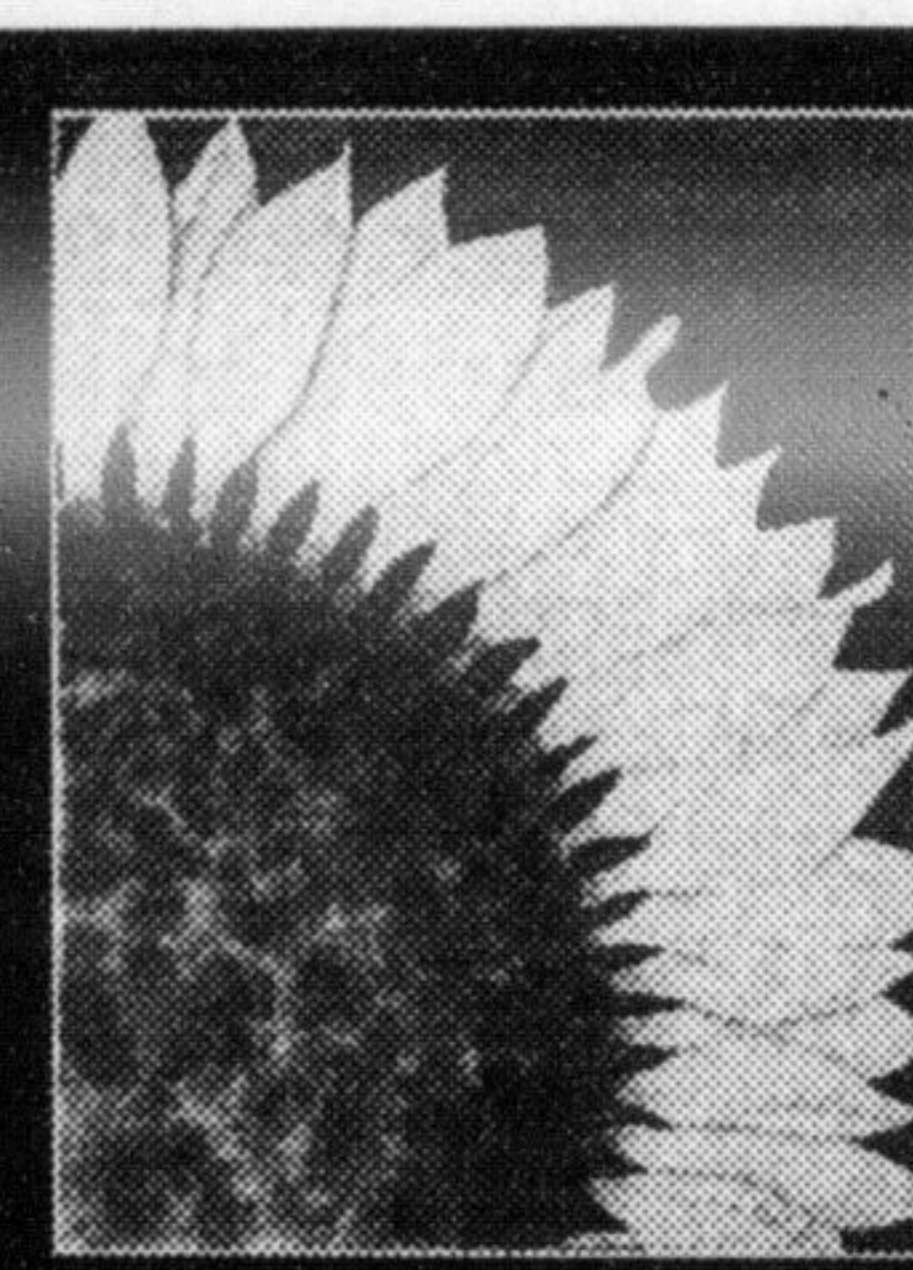
Work by the four artists is illustrated at right.



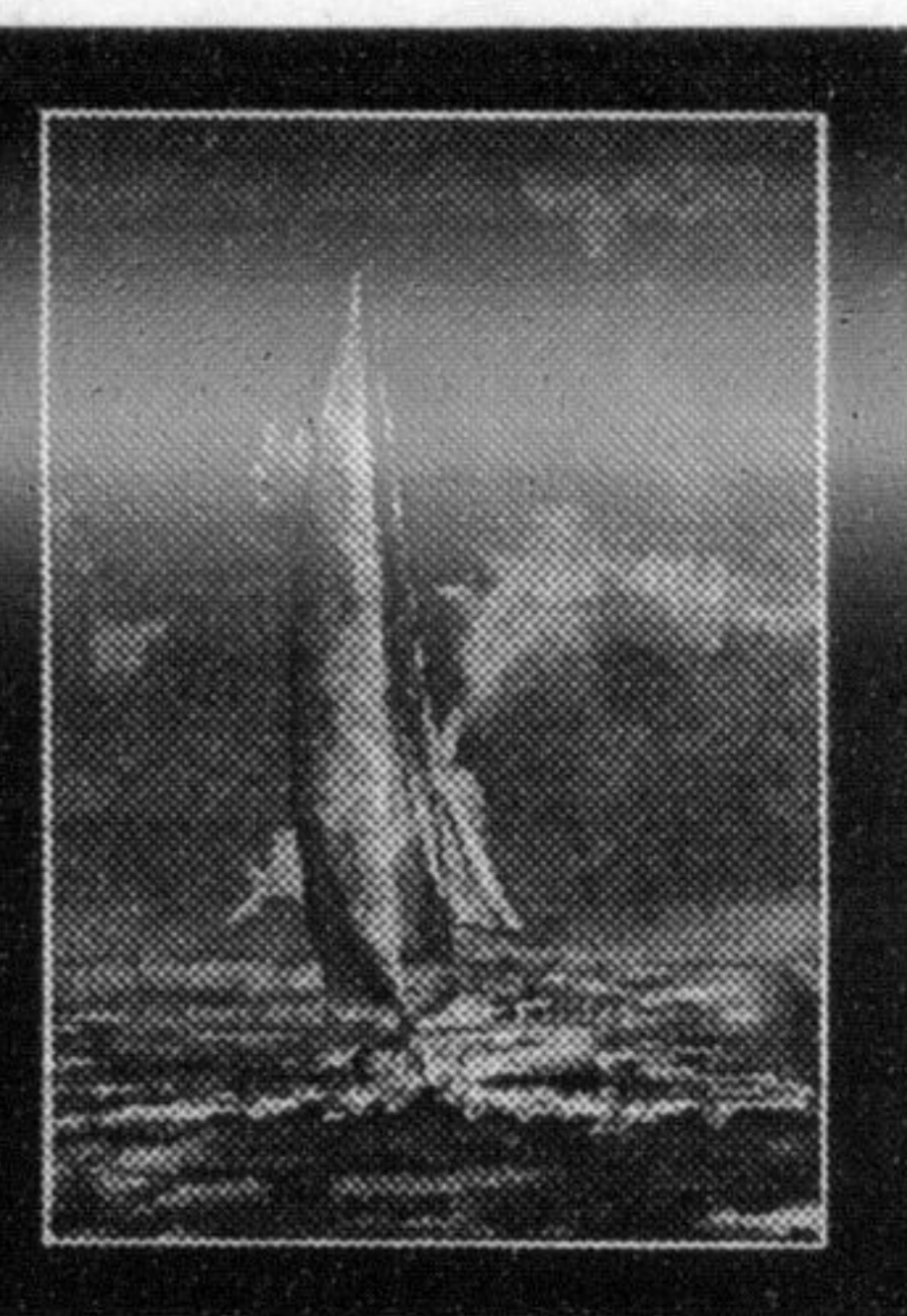
Russell Jodway



Maureen Casteller



Lynn Kelly



Maureen Lipa

shows across the province. Members of the group have pooled their work over the past two years although this is the first time all four have done a public showing together.

Mr. Jodway — who deals in watercolour and ink exploration — says the link-up has been beneficial for both the artists and their customers.

"Art lovers seem to like see-

ing a wide range of different styles all at once," he remarked. "Working with other artists is a great way to increase your exposure, which helps me because I'm not really into the marketing end of it."

While somewhat more traditional artists, Maureen Lipa and Lynn Kelly's works feature unique seascapes and floral designs respectively. Their cre-

ations, along with that of their partners, hang in government buildings and corporate offices worldwide.

Now 4 Artists, 4 Visions can only be seen by those taking in performances at the Hummingbird, but an open house will be held Friday, Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The centre is located at 1 Front Street East in Toronto.

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