



Sally Wildman of Lemonville is quietly painting her way to acceptance in the fickle world of art.

— Jim Thomas

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## Seeks acceptance in fickle world of art

By SHEILA MCLEOD LEMONVILLE At the end of a long, long lane in Lemonville, Sally Wildman, a young and talented artist has been quietly painting her way to acceptance in the fickle world of art.

A four-year graduate of the Ontario College of Art, who later studied in England on a travelling scholarship, Miss Wildman worked freelance as a book illustrator for six years before settling down to non-commercial painting. Since then, she has exhibited regularly at the Roberts' Gallery in Toronto, where she has already held two one-woman shows. On February 4, a successful exhibition of her work

concluded at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa.

Yet little is known of the artist's work locally, despite the fact that she has lived in Lemonville for two years and Uxbridge before that.

The objects depicted in her paintings are a weathered miscellany of our rural scene; the people in them are mostly area residents. Miss Wildman can't always identify these models for she draws nameless faces from local newspaper cuttings or from photographs she has taken herself.

Walter Atkinson, the Stouffville auctioneer, figures prominently in one painting. This is understandable, for

auctions are the artist's favorite haunt, offering the perspective of brick-a-brack and mellowed artefacts that she finds exciting.

Sigils - the rusting relics of 'Purina Chow' on bleached barns - are featured in much of Miss Wildman's work, as is the figure of a bride.

"I think what I like about brides is the costume; it has a mystical quality," explains the artist. This, in essence, is a trademark of Miss Wildman's painting - the mystical quality of viewing a scene through a fine veil. She attributes it to technique, (painting on paper, followed by a clear acrylic coating and ink rubbing).

Incongruous with the nebulous effect, is a style that brackets objects startlingly out of context. Though interested in surrealism, the artist considers herself "more of an intuitive painter" who puts things into a scene because she likes the form and the feel of their being there.

Many of the paintings which were on view in Oshawa are privately owned and some are in university collections.

Miss Wildman admits, however, that she goes through artistic doldrums, a period when she becomes discouraged and doesn't paint. "I'm hardly ever satisfied with a painting," she says.

Fortunately, art

fanciers seem to that sometimes find the satisfaction in frustratingly eludes the her work - satisfaction - artist.

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