

THE LITTLE ART GALLERY
of the North Canton Public Library
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“The Art of Living”

The Little Art Gallery announces its upcoming exhibit featuring the work of Lisa Vincenzo.

NORTH CANTON, Ohio, June 15, 2014 – The Little Art Gallery of the North Canton Public Library will host artist, Lisa Vincenzo’s, premier exhibit “The Art of Living” beginning July 24, 2014. The exhibit will be displayed through August 23, 2014.

“We are honored to have the opportunity to present Lisa’s unique work to the public for her first ever exhibition, and we expect a very positive response,” explained Gallery Curator, Elizabeth Blakemore. An opening reception, hosted by Friends of the Little Art Gallery, will be held Thursday, July 24, 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Artist Statement by Lisa Vincenzo

“I communicate my most profound experiences and feelings through the visual arts. I was a very shy child and I could never articulate my feelings, but through drawing and painting, I could disclose the beauty and friendship I found in the world by creating a small window for others to see inside. My relationships with animals, people, and my travels throughout the world, created my deep empathy and love for all living things. And, all living beings are my inspiration for creating art. It is a youthful exuberance that brings my pencil to paper to capture ephemeral moments in time. Drawings are my diary and I simply draw from life. Life is an art to be experienced both while lamenting and in joy, always haunted by the past, experiencing the present, and looking forward to the future.”

Well-known, local artist, Judi Krew uses her own words to describe the artwork of Lisa Vincenzo:

“For an artist, the ability to make spontaneous markings is an essential skill. The gift to have them be successful is rare. Most of our sketchbooks and scribbles, are just that, notes for future reference. Sometimes we happen upon a doodle that “works”, exists on the page as a complete image, possessing all the elements of a quality piece. Those pages are a treat. An artist soon to be showing at the North Canton Public Library’s Little Art Gallery has that gift of successful spontaneous imagery and not just in one media, but in several. Lisa Vincenzo records moments in time. I mentioned her work in my review of the recent May Show and come to find that she is not a “new” artist in the sense of being a younger member of our community, but a woman of about my age who just did not see any reason to put her work out there for us to enjoy. With some mentoring and encouragement by gallery curator Elizabeth Blakemore, we will get the opportunity to peer into her sketchbooks.

The pieces I have seen are not literally pages from a sketchbook, so don’t be expecting rough edges or torn out pages, as some of her works are created digitally using an iPad. Now, you all know how I feel about the use of such devices to create artwork, but sometimes one must step back from personal bias (probably from ignorance and envy more than anything) and see the hand of artist.

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Other pieces are traditional ink and wash (and drawing media) on paper, with all the raw, fresh, bold markings of a skilled observer. Her study of horses is not the typical delicate record of the head often seen by those who choose that subject. Her drawing records the mass and movement of these animals with thick lines and jagged edges, a wash of toned ink causing other marks to bleed, forcing one of the animals into the background. The final result does not feel planned which is what makes it so beautiful. A second ink drawing of four women playing violins captures a distinct personality in each one of the ladies. To do that quickly and without marks of hesitation is very difficult. Once again her use of the space on the page is instinctual and intriguing as one senses the depth of the scene and the drama of their interaction. Can you tell I am impressed? Yes, I get judgmental because I am old school... the ability to draw is still my personal yardstick for those who "can and are" and those who "want to be and really aren't". There are natural born artists, there are those who make art, and there are those who make stuff. Sure, drawing can be taught, but drawing from life and doing it well, cannot. You either got it or you don't. Lisa Vincenzo has got "it."

The pieces where she adds color to her washes are just as fresh. Too often, artists will apply layer upon layer of wash and lose the crispness of the markings and disregard the effect of the paper underneath. Her washes are thin, allowing colors to bleed in some areas, while building a weave of markings in others. The bones of her piece in the form of an ink sketch remains on view most of the time, guiding the location of her washes. The application of a single brushstroke full of color, defining a shape just once and not to be altered again shows a masterful knowledge of the media. No pencil lines guide her, no added pieces of paper or materials force the paint to do something else, she just lays down her scene and moves on.

I only got to preview one piece of her digital work, but found no real difference between how she uses a brush and how she uses her fingers. The markings are the same, only how the machine makes color and line appear on paper are different. The use of shapes and space as well as the essence of good composition are all present. It is the final presentation, which changes to a more commercial appearance, much like the silk screens of pop art. The final result is almost a Matisse like rendering. I have to say I like it because the image is not "flat," it is still "sketchy." Seems I may have to find some new words to define how digital drawings are described; the future is upon me and I just have to get used to it.

Overall, I am excited about this upcoming show. Once her work is seen by others, I am sure she will feel confident enough to start entering more shows and selling her pieces."

Attached images of Lisa Vincenzo's work:

1. Kitten
2. Bather with Red Umbrella

For additional information, please contact library community relations manager, Christina Weyrick, at 330.499.4712 x331 or ccooper@northcantonlibrary.org.

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