

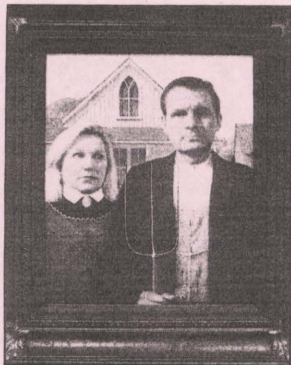
TIMES LEADER | EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21-27, 2003

T H E ♦ G U I D E



PHOTO COURTESY SORDONI ART GALLERY

'THE GIFT OF ART' DISPLAY PART OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY — **PAGE 3**



FOR TIMES LEADER/AMIEE DILGER
Karen Evans Kaufer and Ron Bernier tried to imitate the expressions of the original 'American Gothic' farm couple in this homage.

Amateur artists' personal expressions aid Sordoni Gallery

By MARY THERESE BIEBEL
marytb@leader.net

What do Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, a clothes hanger, a candy wrapper and a trail of doggie paw prints have in common?

(Besides being what you clean up after kids and pets have their way with your living room.)

Anyone who attended last weekend's "Rembrandt Rejects" auction, which raised close to \$30,000 for the Sordoni Art Gallery, knows each of those items helped transform a blank canvas into a thing of beauty — or at least a conversation piece.

"You didn't have to be a serious artist to enjoy this," said Rusty Flack, the chief executive officer of Diamond Manufacturing, who served as auctioneer along with his friend, Dr. Robert Clements. "You didn't have to be an art aficionado."

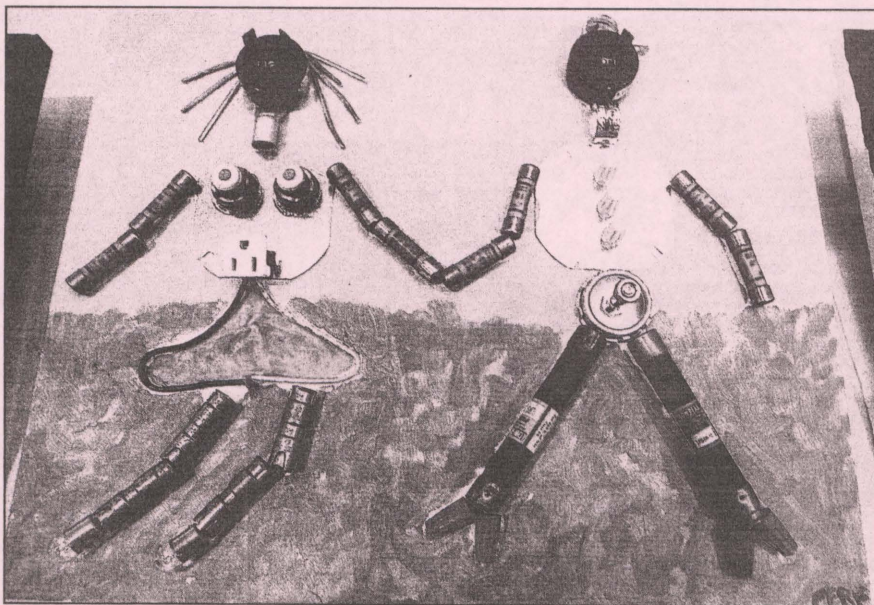
But it helped to have a sense of humor — especially when stick figures, swirling dots and more than one homage to "American Gothic" came to the block.

The original "American Gothic" features a workworn, no-nonsense farm couple — she in her apron and he with his pitchfork.

In celebration of his own Western roots, Michael Last of WNEP-TV, Channel 16, painted a pair of Potato Heads for "Idaho Gothic."

See ART, Page 4

THE ART *of* FUND-RAISING



FOR TIMES LEADER/AMIEE DILGER

ABOVE: Paulie and Rob Friedman of Friedman's Electric used fuses and outlets and knobs to help make this 'Love Connection.'

AT LEFT: Carl Sprinchorn's 'The Blizzard,' on display at the Sordoni Art Gallery, shows trees bending under a mighty wind.

ON THE COVER

Bertram Hartman's 'No. 1 Wall Street' shows a peaceful New York.

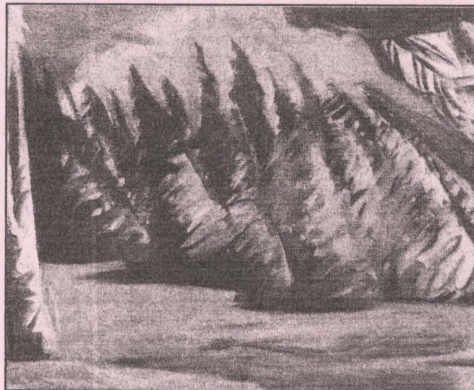


PHOTO COURTESY SORDONI ART GALLERY

IF YOU GO

What: Sordoni Art Gallery

On exhibit: "The Gift of Art," celebrating the 30th anniversary of the gallery

Where: Stark Learning Center, 150 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre

When: Open noon to 4:30 p.m. daily

More info: 408-4325

ART

Continued from Page 3

And, Ron Bernier and Karen Evans Kafer, director and associate director, respectively, of the Sordoni Art Gallery, arranged to have their faces imposed on a similar portrait they called "Sordoni Gothic."

"We tried to imitate the expressions," Kafer said, choking back laughter.

While Bernier and Kafer completed their project in secret, other community leaders got together to create about 50 "Rembrandt Rejects" at Marquis Art and Frame.

At one of those sessions, Flack remembered with a chuckle, Frank "Parky" Conyngham, co-owner of Hillside Farms Dairy, used every available minute to painstakingly sketch a martini glass with two olives.

"The volunteers were standing around, waiting for him to finish. They all breathed a sigh of relief. Then he said, 'Do you think this could use a third olive?' In unison, they all said, 'No.'"

Among the other noteworthy creations, Ned Grimes of Master Garment Cleaners showed off his "Tools of the Trade" by tracing a clothes hanger and attaching two buttons to a canvas.

Rob and Paulie Friedman of Friedman's Electric arranged fuses, knobs and electrical outlets in the shape of a man and woman.

Richard Kafer — Karen's husband — "took our dogs and put paint on their feet and made them walk on the canvas."

And, Wilkes University Provost Maravene Loeschke made a collage of items she found, literally or figuratively, on her desk "At the End of the Day." Along with a Mr. Goodbar wrapper, she included "all the nails and pearls and barbed wire and Tylenol P.M. (to show) the beauty and excitement and energy of it all."

"We were all terribly nervous," Loeschke said. "We were all petrified ours would be the ones nobody wanted, that nobody would pay 10 cents."

"But then we all got into the spirit," she said. "Some of the pieces were darned good, and even if they weren't, they reflected a commitment to the community. People were bidding to be supportive of the Sordoni, of art, of people who had stuck their necks out." "Some people got into some pretty serious bidding wars."

One of the more light-hearted bidding wars took place when Kathi Flack and Jeannie Clements, wives of the evening's auctioneers, each went home with a piece crafted by the other's husband.

"My daughter is Bob's goddaughter,



Auctioneers Bob Clements and Rusty Flack look over some of the 'Rembrandt's Rejects,' created for a fund-raiser for the Sordoni Art Gallery.

FOR TIMES LEADER/AIMEE DILGER

and Bob's daughter is my goddaughter," said Rusty Flack, who made a collage of perforated metal while his friend, the dentist, drew a set of teeth. "So the idea is we'll each give them to our goddaughters."

Some of the more earnest bidding took place over an Italian village painting by WVIA radio personality Erika Funke — it finally went for \$700 — and two pieces created years ago by M.B. "Barney" Sordoni. Her images of a skater on a pond and the Forty Fort Meeting House received high bids of \$1,650 and \$2,000.

Sordoni's family gave the Sordoni Art Gallery its start in 1973 by donating a group of paintings from the private collection of state Sen. Andrew J. Sordoni. Since then, the gallery's holdings have increased to around 1,300 objects.

The gallery, in the Stark Learning Center at Wilkes University, is "an absolute gem," Loeschke said. "It's utterly amazing that a university this size in a city this size has something like this."

Recent shows have ranged from 25 years' worth of artistic photography from The Photo Review to paintings by Wilkes alumnus Jon Carsman.

"Every exhibit has a different theme, a different texture," she said.

The current "Gift of Art" display, on view through Dec. 14, showcases pieces from the gallery collection. Here you'll find ships etched by James Whistler — he of "Whistler's Mother" fame — and a woman "At the Louvre" etched by Edgar Degas, the artist noted for all those ballerinas.

You'll see landscapes such as Carl Sprinchorn's "The Blizzard," with fir trees listing to the left, contrasted with the cityscape, "No. 1 Wall Street," which Bertram Hartman painted in 1929.

George Catlin's glimpses into Native American Culture, a centuries-old portrait of a cardinal, and the "unglamorous realism" of the Ashcan School of the early 20th century all contribute to the kaleidoscope.

Sordoni supporters say they're proud to bring guests to the gallery.

"It's one of the first places I take them," Loeschke said.

"Ron and Karen are doing marvelous things there. I have to say I go there a lot," said Tish Last, director of corporate foundation relations at Marywood University in Scranton.

"As the downtown develops in the



PHOTO COURTESY SORDONI ART GALLERY

'Beggar Woman,' painted by George Luks, is part of the permanent collection at the Sordoni Art Gallery.

next five to 10 years, it's going to become a bigger and bigger asset," Rusty Flack said. "All the political stars are perfectly aligned. There's a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of optimism."

Sordoni Art Gallery marks 30th anniversary with 'The Gift of Art'

CV 10-31-03

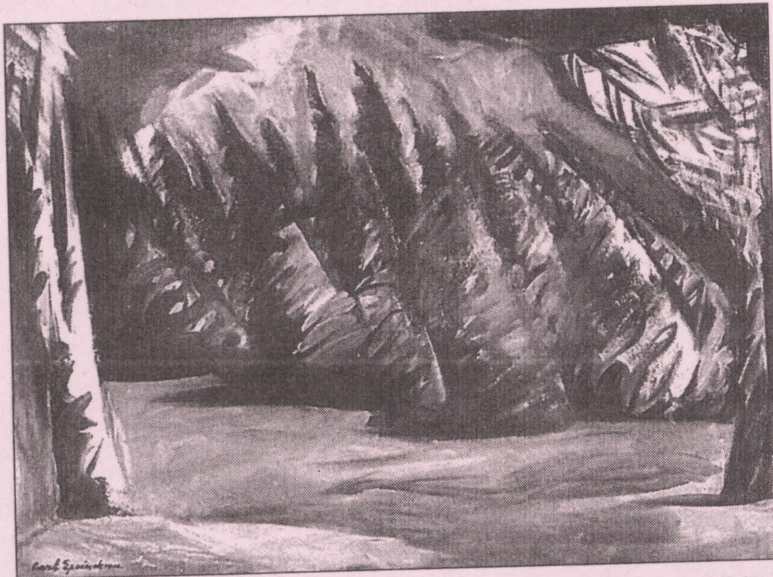
The Sordoni Art Gallery will open the exhibition, "The Gift of Art," on Sunday, Nov. 2.

The exhibit marks the 30th anniversary of the gallery and showcases works of art that have been donated to the permanent collection since its founding in 1973.

The Sordoni Art Gallery at Wilkes University was named for the late Andrew J. Sordoni, a former state senator from Northeastern Pennsylvania and influential businessman. It was founded on a gift of art, specifically a group of paintings from the senator's private collection.

Since then, the Sordoni Art Gallery, a rich cultural resource for the entire community and region, has amassed a collection of around 1,300 objects, including European and American works on paper from the 17th century to the present; European art from the 19th century, and American paintings from the 19th century to the present.

Nearly 70 percent of the collection has come as gifts from friends and donors to the gallery and university, carrying on the senator's and his family's founding vision to acquire, preserve



The Sordoni Gallery will kick off its 30th year with the exhibit, 'The Gift of Life, on Sunday. Among the works on display will be Carl Sprinchorn's 'The Blizzard' (above).

and exhibit works of the art of the highest quality for this community.

"As we mark this 30th year of our founding," said Ronald R. Bernier, Ph.D., director of the Sordoni Art Gallery, "we could think of no better way to celebrate than with this special exhibition highlighting some of the finest examples from the col-

lection and honoring some of our many friends and supporters."

"The process of selecting the pieces for the exhibition was fascinating," added Karen Evans Kaufer, gallery associate director. "We have many treasures in the collection and this was an opportunity to examine them in great detail."

While the collection is diverse and eclectic, there is a consistent theme throughout, one which features the enduring tradition of realism in American art, beginning with the work of Wilkes-Barre's own George Catlin, subject of the Sordoni's premiere exhibition 30 years ago, and one of this country's preeminent American Naturalist painters who transcribed the life and customs of Native American culture.

The exhibition, which brings together approximately 40 works in a variety of media and representing a range of styles and periods, also features the distinctive and uniquely American style of the "Ashcan School" of the early 20th century, so labeled for its unglamorous style and subject matter rooted in the reality of modern American urban life. Featured are works by John Sloan, William Glackens and George Luks.

The influence of European art also is in evidence in the exhibition in the Impressionist-inspired canvases of Childe Hassam, Walter Schofield and Carl Sprinchorn.

Also included are such icons

of European Modernism as Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Salvador Dali and American expatriates John Singer Sargent and James Abbot McNeil Whistler.

Other featured contemporary artists include Jimmy Ernst, Philip Pearlstein and Seymour Lipton.

"This exhibition offers a unique opportunity," Bernier continued, "for the local community to enjoy the riches of our own permanent collection, built up over the past three decades."

"While it is an opportunity to reflect on our past," he added, "we also look forward with excitement and a sense of renewed energy to the next 30 years."

The exhibition, accompanied by an illustrated color brochure, will be on view through Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Sordoni Art Gallery is open to the public and is located at 150 S. River Street in the Stark Learning Center on the Wilkes University campus. The gallery is open daily from noon to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

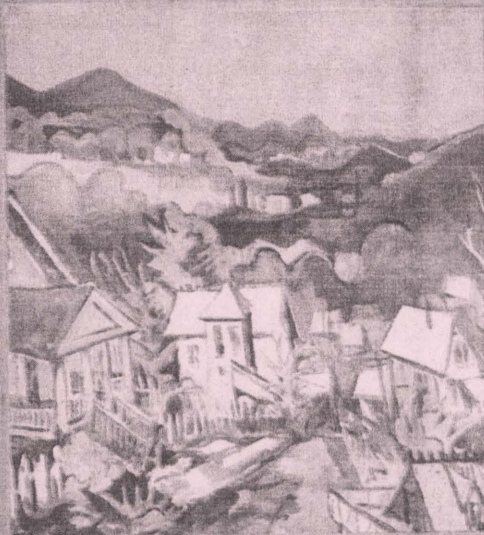
For more information, call 408-4325.

THE ♦ GUIDE

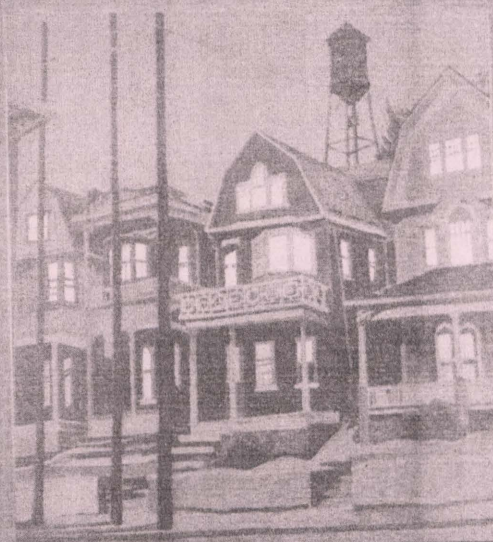
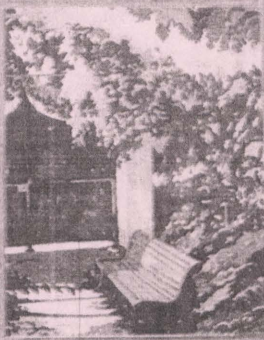
TIMES LEADER | EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2003

JON CARSMAN

Rhythm



Energy



Movement

Sordoni showcases local artist's work — Page 3

WEEKEND FARE

Feel Carsman's 'Rhythm, Movement, Energy' at the Sordoni

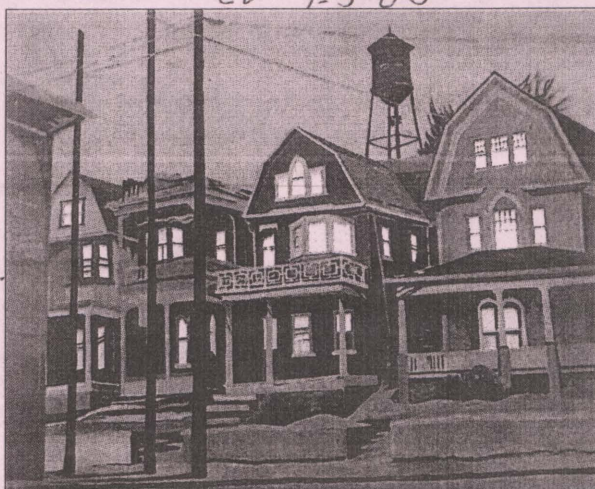
The Sordoni Art Gallery will open the exhibition, "Jon Carsman: Rhythm, Movement, Energy," on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Darlene Miller-Lanning, gallery director at the University of Scranton and guest curator for the exhibit, will give a gallery talk Saturday at 4:30 p.m. with a reception immediately following. The Carsman exhibition runs through Sunday, Oct. 19.

The first exhibition of the Sordoni Art Gallery's 2003-2004 exhibition season features a retrospective look at the painting of Jon Carsman (1944-1987), a Wilkes-Barre native and Wilkes College alumnus who enjoyed a successful career on the New York art scene in the '70s and '80s.

Carsman, a featured artist in exhibitions throughout the U.S. and internationally, enjoyed a rich and remarkable career. His work is often associated with that of such notable American Realist predecessors and contemporaries as Fairfield Porter, Neil Welliver, Charles Birchfield and Edward Hopper. He has been described as one of the so-called "New Realist" painters who reestablished the importance of representational imagery in the wake of Abstract Expressionism.

During his prolific career, Carsman was represented by such prominent New York art galleries as the Graham, Hammer and Fischbach Galleries, and well-received by the critics of such art journals as "Art News" and "Arts Magazine." He also exhibited with many lead-



One of the many Carsman works to be exhibited is this 1986 painting entitled 'Evening Geometry.'

ing artists of the 1970s and 1980s including Andy Warhol at Tower Gallery, Southampton, in 1982.

Miller-Lanning, who serves as guest curator for the Carsman exhibition, writes in the exhibit catalogue, "Carsman's true strength as a painter lay not in his ability to keep pace with his peers, but in his capacity to ground a popular and emerging art style in enduring personal and art historical traditions. A native of Northeastern Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley, Carsman never lost his fascination for the region's lonely towns and woodland glades."

"This exhibition represents the culmination of a unique year-long collaboration among

area art institutions," said Ronald R. Bernier, Ph.D., director of the Sordoni Art Gallery. "In addition to having Carsman expert, Dr. Miller-Lanning, serve as guest curator for the project, we are pleased to be able to share the exhibition with the Mahady Gallery at Marywood University in Scranton, and to feature some of the paintings held in the private collections of Carsman family members and local Wilkes-Barre residents, as well as from the Edward Wells, Jr. Collection at the D. Leonard Corgan Library, Kings College."

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated color catalogue, featuring personal reflections on the artist in a biographical sketch by friend,



Among the many Carsman paintings on display at the Sordoni Gallery will be 'Pink Frenzy' (1974).

fellow Wilkes College alumnus and Wilkes-Barre resident, F. Charles Petrillo, Esq.

The Sordoni Art Gallery is open to the public and is located at 150 S. River St. in the Stark

Learning Center on the Wilkes University campus. The gallery is open daily from noon until 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call 408-4325.

THROUGH THE EYES OF JON CARSMAN

TL Guide 9-5-03

Works of art
by the late
area native
in 2 exhibits

By MARQUES G. HARPER
mharper@leader.net

The art world never quite forgot the late Jon Carsman, a talented Kingston native who left the Wyoming Valley in the mid-1960s before making a name for himself in New York's art scene of the '70s and '80s.

Like the tall and imposing artist himself, his paintings aren't easy to forget. Sharp and haunting in distinct color, searing in passion and swirling in depth, his pieces have been picked up over the years by galleries and museums and added to private collections throughout the country.

Now, 16 years after Carsman ended his life, local art aficionados and a new generation of admirers will get one more chance to experience a body of Carsman's work — this time, the years between his professional beginnings in 1966 and his final major output of work in 1985.

In a collaboration among collegiate art galleries, a retrospective exhibit called "Jon Carsman: Rhythm, Movement, Energy" unfolds in two parts starting 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Sordoni Art Gallery at Wilkes University. On Sunday, another part of the exhibit will open at the Mahady Gallery at Marywood University in Scranton.

"It was a great opportunity to highlight one of Wilkes' major success stories," said Ronald Bernier, director of the Sordoni, which marks its 30th anniversary this season. "It was a long project in the making. We tried to get a broad range of his professional life."

For guest curator Darlene Miller-Lanning, an adjunct faculty member and gallery director at the University of Scranton, the exhibit is a chance to pay homage to an artist who inspired her when she



Rite of Spring, 1978

was a student at then Wilkes College in the early '80s.

At the time, seeing Carsman's pieces and writing a review of his work for class made her think "that you weren't isolated or an odd person," she recalled during a recent interview. "That was really encouraging. That was really kind of a wonderful feeling."

And so she never forgot about him.

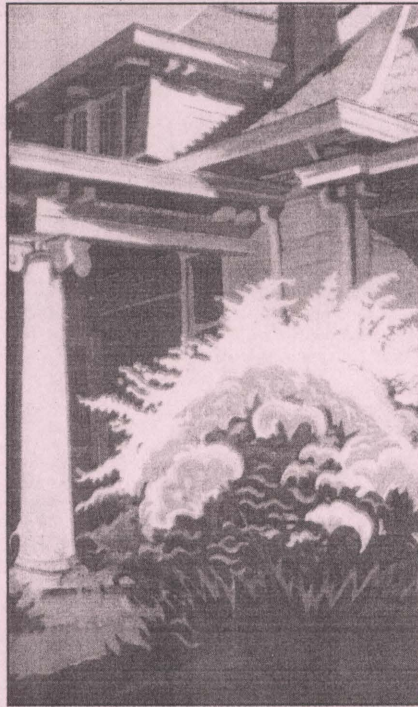
Five years ago, Miller-Lanning helped bring an exhibit of Carsman's work called "Rural Frequencies: Serigraphs by Jon Carsman" to the University of Scranton. And she played a role in making the new exhibit of 35 works happen.

More than a year ago, she and local artist and attorney Charles Petrillo — one of Carsman's college buddies — approached their alma mater's gallery about doing the retrospective.

"I was quite attracted very early to his watercolors," said Petrillo, who wrote an accompanying essay for the exhibit. "I think the work is particularly striking because of my interest in local history. ... His work was recognizable and rooted, in many cases, in our region. He was true to his own vision, in my opinion."

As part of the exhibit opening at

See EYES, Page 4



Pink Frenzy, 1974



Artist's Father, 1968

USEFUL TO YOU

A new season of art, photography, drawings and other visuals by students, local residents and well-known artists will be coming to area college and university campuses through next year.

Here's a peek at what's happening at several local collegiate art galleries through the beginning of 2004. (For other upcoming gallery openings, artist talks and special events, see The List on page 13.)

Sordoni Art Gallery, Stark Learning Center, 150 S. River St., Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre. Open daily, noon to 4:30 p.m. 408-4325.

• "Jon Carsman: Rhythm, Movement, Energy," a retrospective exhibit of paintings by the late local artist in conjunction with Marywood University in Scranton. Opens Saturday with a gallery talk and reception at 4:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 19.

• "The Gift of Art," an exhibit from the permanent collection celebrating the gallery's 30th anniversary. Nov. 2 to Dec. 14.

• "A Shared Vision: Photographs by Berenice Abbot and Hank O'Neal," a traveling exhibit from the Westmoreland Museum of American Art. Jan. 12 to Feb. 29, 2004.

The Marywood University Art Galleries, (Suraci and Mahady) Visual Arts Center, Marywood University, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton. Monday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. 348-6278 or marywood.edu/www2/galleries.

Suraci Gallery

• "Moments in Time," plein air oil paintings by Helen Evanchik. Sunday to Oct. 5. Gallery talk and reception: 10:30 a.m. Sept. 10.

• "Thought Charts: The Visual Diaries," interactive exhibit with works by Francis Hynes. Oct. 10 through Nov. 9.

• "The Artist and the Bible: 20th Century Works on Paper," Nov. 17 through Dec. 12.

• "Contemporary Prints: Selections from The Maslow Collection," showcase of works by Jasper Johns, Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg and others. Jan. 12, 2004 through Feb. 22.

See USEFUL, Page 4

EYES

Continued from Page 3

the Sordoni, Miller-Lanning will give a gallery talk Saturday afternoon before a reception. In addition to seeing Carsman's work, people who attend the exhibit will get a chance to buy a Carsman print, part of a limited edition of prints given as a gift to the university by a Florida couple.

"There's kind of a pop sensibility to it," Miller-Lanning said of Carsman's work. "It looks like a rural scene but it's electrified. ... He's tied into that American sense of place."

Part of that sense of place was Northeastern Pennsylvania, particularly those slices of life that helped define small-town life and capture the Wyoming Valley. And Carsman interpreted that sense of place in his signature style — considered to be new realism — a style that went against the abstract expressionism of the 1970s.

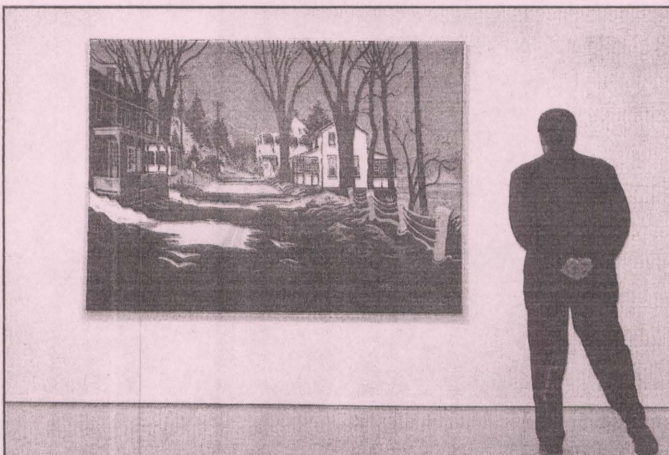
While the exhibit just scratches at the surface of Carsman's output, the pieces that make it up tell a story of a man who was born in 1944, trained by local art teachers and inspired by such things as his childhood memories of Welles Street in Kingston.

Later in his career, he found inspiration from Impressionist painter Monet's home and garden in Giverny, France. But he always returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania, for a visit or to work on his art.

Miller-Lanning said Carsman's pieces resonate after his death because they aren't nostalgic. Instead, she said, Carsman, who painted on site or worked from photographs and used everything from watercolors to crayons to silk screens, showed "a place has history and a personality."

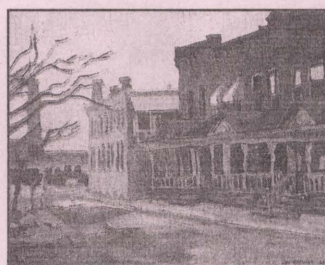
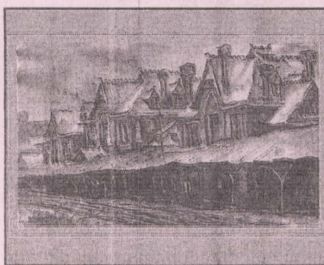
In the retrospective, Edwardsville, for example, is depicted through Carsman's eyes in vibrant oranges, purples and reds. Boathouses and docks appear in steely blues at Harveys Lake. A haunting scene of Wilkes-Barre houses at nightfall, unfolding in midnight blue and velvety purple.

"I almost look at things in black-and-



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTOS/CLARK VAN ORDEN

Ronald Bernier, director of the Sordoni Art Gallery, looks at 'Winter Lights' (1979) by Wilkes alumnus Jon Carsman. A two-part exhibit of Carsman's work opens this weekend at the Sordoni and at the Mahady Gallery at Marywood University in Scranton.



Local street scenes by the late artist Jon Carsman, a Kingston native and Wilkes alumnus, hang on a wall at the Sordoni Art Gallery at Wilkes University.

"It was a great opportunity to highlight one of Wilkes's major success stories."

—Ronald Bernier, director of the Sordoni Art Gallery

white," Carsman told the Times Leader in 1985 before an exhibition of his watercolors and graphics at the Jewish Community Center in Wilkes-Barre. "I see something and I break it up visually and then put it back together with bits of

myself."

New York Times art critic John Canaday put it this way in a positive 1973 review of one of Carsman's exhibits at the Graham Gallery in New York: "Here are small-townscapes with

anonymous middle-aged buildings illuminated in the strong lights and lengthy shadows of late sunshine, any one of them imaginable as Mr. (Charles) Burchfield would have painted it 40 years ago. But all tonal gradation have been eliminated, so that the scenes become kind of patchwork, or marquetry, in flat color areas of descriptive shape."

After Carsman, a Wilkes alumnus, left the area for New York in the 1960s, he became an overnight success, running in circles with pop artist Andy Warhol and teaching school in Harlem. And years after earning a master's degree from New York University and being represented by prominent New York galleries, Carsman's success only continued to grow with exhibits in Paris, Santa Fe, N.M., Southampton, N.Y., Scranton and other places.

With the new exhibit opening, local art followers will get to see works such as the portrait of his father and a scene from Hunlock Creek.

Several of the pieces for the retrospective are on loan from Carsman's mother and brother, and a majority of the works have come from Carsman's widow, Karen Plant, who is expected to attend the exhibit's opening.

Other pieces came from the Sordoni's collection, King's College and Petrillo's personal collection.

Over the past year, the Sordoni's Bernier visited and worked with Plant and others to prepare for the exhibit, sometimes looking at dozens of the artist's photographs. He predicts the two-part exhibit will garner a large turnout of Carsman's fans and have a wide appeal among area residents.

When word got out about the undertaking, some local people began contacting the gallery with thoughts, memories and offers to assist in any way, and in recent days people stopped by trying to get a glimpse of the pieces as they were being installed, he added.

"There's so much memory of Jon in this community," Bernier said. "I think he loved the area. And I think you can tell that."

Marques G. Harper, a Times Leader staff writer, may be reached at 831-7324.

USEFUL

Continued from Page 3

Mahady Gallery

• "Jon Carsman: Rhythm, Movement, Energy," a retrospective exhibit of paintings by the late local artist in conjunction with Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre. Opens Sunday and continues through Oct. 12.

• Art Faculty Biennial 2003, multimedia exhibit of works by Marywood's art department faculty. Oct. 24 through Nov. 23.

Widmann Gallery, Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center, King's College, Wilkes-Barre. Monday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;

Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. Closed on holidays and during school breaks. 208-5958.

• "Miles of Mules," a showcase of local artists who submitted designs for the Miles of Mules project. Through Sept. 26.

• "Recent Works by Angellique Prevost," works done in gouache and oil inspired by rural settings and time-weathered objects. Opens Oct. 2 with reception 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. with a gallery talk at 8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30.

• "The First Invitational Emerging Artists Exhibition," works by local high school students. Nov. 5 to Dec. 5.

• "Colors of Snow," an exhibit of works by Luzerne County artists. Dec. 6 to Jan. 4, 2004.

• "Leigh Pawling: Recent Works," Jan. 12 to Feb. 6, 2004. Gallery talk and reception 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 20 and 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 23.

MacDonald Art Gallery, College Misericordia, 301 Lake St., Dallas. Tuesday through Thursday, 1 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. 674-6250.

• "100 Years of Antique Quilts," from the collection of Dr. Joan Byron. Through Sept. 30.

Hope Horn Gallery, Hyland Hall, Jefferson Avenue and Linden Street, University of Scranton. Monday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; Wednesday evening, 7 to 9. 941-4214.

• "Made in America: Recent Works by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith," art works commenting on traditional Native American cul-

tures including painting, printmaking and collage. Art lecture and reception: Sept. 14, 1 to 4 p.m. Mixed media workshops: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 17 and 24; Nov. 7 and 14. Registration: 941-4214.

• "18th Annual Juried Student Exhibition," Dec. 7 to 12. Art lecture Dec. 7, 1 to 2 p.m., followed by a reception 2 to 4 p.m.

• "Successions: Prints by African American Artists in the Jean & Robert Steele Collection," paper art by Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Catlett and Faith Ringgold. Jan. 11 through March 12, 2004. Opening reception and gallery talk: 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 8. Printmaking workshops: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 16 and 23; Feb. 6, 13 and 27; and March 5.

◆ GO

W-B 4-20-00
T.L.

TODAY

Willie Nelson will perform at
8 p.m. at the Kirby Center,
Public Square, Wilkes-Barre.
For more information, call
826-1100, Ticketmaster at
693-4100 or www.kirbycenter.org.
Tickets are \$39.50.

SUNDAY

Susquehanna Trailers Hiking
Club will take a seven-mile
hike along the Appalachian
Trail: Smith Gap to Little Gap.
Meet at 11:45 a.m. at the Kirby
Health Center, 71 N. Franklin
St., Wilkes-Barre.
For more information, call
655-4979.

NEXT WEEK

Pianist Ellen Flint will
present a recital at 8 p.m.
Tuesday in the Darte Center
on the Wilkes University cam-
pus. Admission is free.

"Il Postino" will be
broadcast at 8 p.m. Tuesday
as part of the Service Electric
Cable Channel 66, the sys-
tem's educational channel,
managed by Wilkes Universi-
ty.

"Trains That Passed in the
Night: The Railroad Pho-
tographs of O. Winston Link"
runs April 25 to June 18 at
the Sordoni Art Gallery, 150
South River St., Wilkes Uni-
versity, Wilkes-Barre. Hours
are noon to 4:30 daily. For
more information, call 408-
4325.

T.L. 4-17-00

Railroad photo exhibition coming to Wilkes gallery

Shot by O. Winston Link, "Trains that Passed in the Night" will be on display at the Sordoni Art Gallery April 25 through June 18.

Wilkes University will host an 80-photograph exhibition, "Trains that Passed in the Night: The Railroad Photographs of O. Winston Link," from April 25 through June 18.

The exhibit will be in the Sordoni Art Gallery, 150 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre. The exhibition is organized by Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, for travel throughout the United States.

In conjunction with the display, Thomas H. Garver, guest curator and author of "The Last Steam

Railroad in America," will present a lecture on O. Winston Link. He will speak at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 29 in the school's Student Union Ballroom, 84 W. South St. A reception will follow in the Gallery from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

In early 1955, Link, a successful New York commercial photographer, began the five-year task of documenting the last days of steam power on the Norfolk and Western Railway, the last major American railroad to use steam locomotives.

After watching the trains one night in Virginia, Link decided to use the nighttime hours as his canvas. By designing a special lighting system of dozens of synchronized flashbulbs, Link was able to capture a crisp image of a train passing at 60 mph.

Though he began photograph-



'Maud Bows for the Virginia Creeper,' by O. Winston Link

ing the trains in their shops and yards, Link soon expanded his vision. Determined to not only record the life of the railroad but also the life around it, Link took at least 20 trips along the N&W's routes through the mountains and valleys of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, alert to possible photo opportunities.

The Sordoni Art Gallery is open from noon to 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. Admission is free. For information, call 408-4325.

◆ GO

TODAY

W.B.T.L.
4-13-00

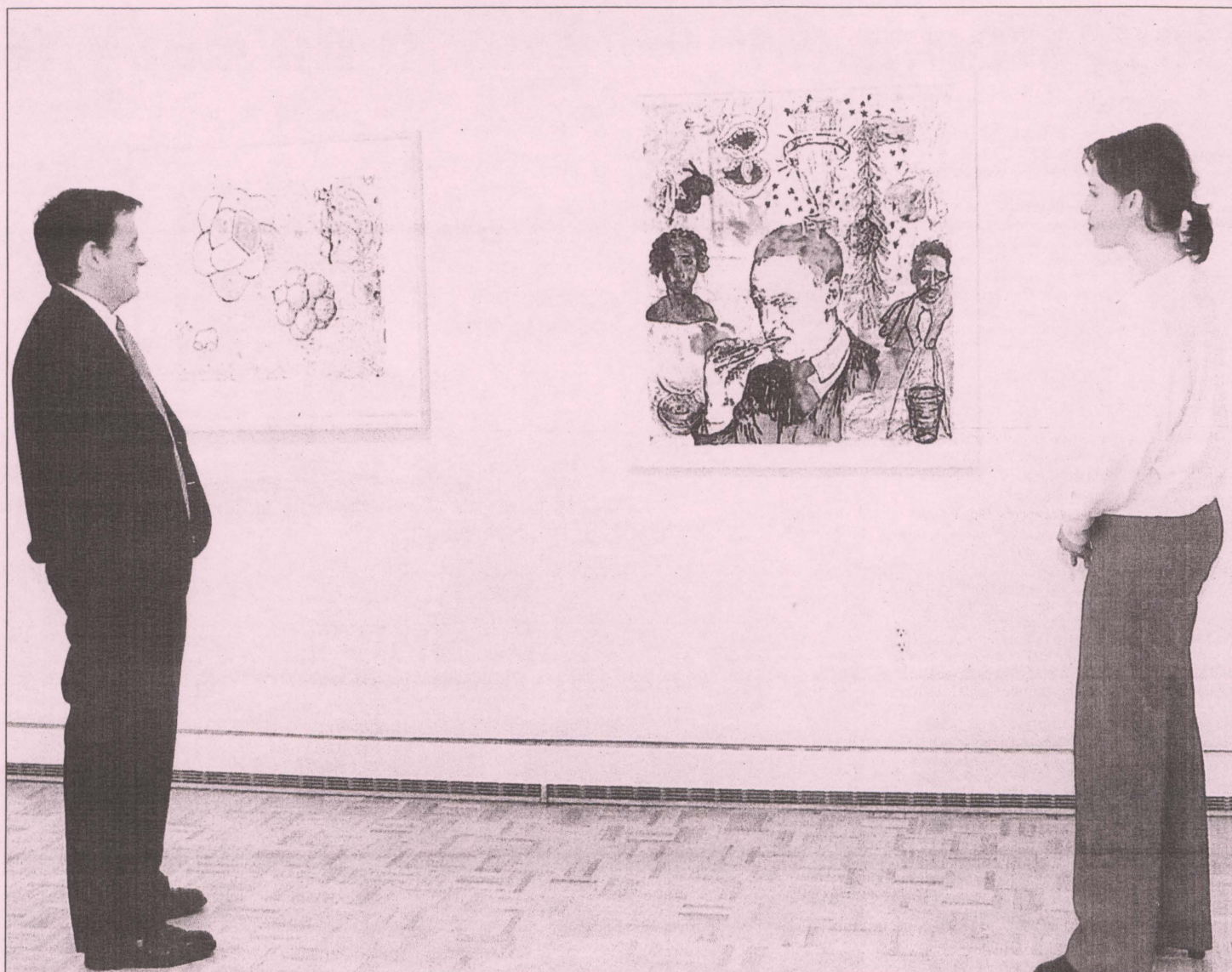
"The Tempest" will be presented through Sunday Wilkes University at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center, South and West River streets.

Shows are at 8 p.m. April Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

All-college photography and other media exhibit runs through Friday at the Kilburn Room Gallery, Sheehy Student Center, King's College, Wilkes-Barre. Hours are noon to 5 weekdays; 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 826-5966.

The student exhibition runs through Sunday at the Sordoni Art Gallery, 150 S. River St., Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre. Hours are noon to 4:30 daily. For more information, call 408-4325.

REGIONAL ATTRACTION



Ron Bernier talks art with Jillian Ford of Nanticoke at the Sordani Art Gallery at Wilkes University.

CV 1-5-03

JACK KELLEY • TIMES-SHAMROCK NEWSPAPERS

Art meets academics at Sordoni

Gallery at Wilkes University is building an impressive collection while educating students, community

BY RICHARD COSGROVE
TIMES-SHAMROCK NEWSPAPERS

Wilkes University's Sordoni Art Gallery is a professionally managed visual arts organization, established at the university in 1973. Its threefold mission is educating students, building and maintaining a permanent collection and providing community service.

The Sordoni Art Gallery encourages and supports an appreciation of the visual arts in an academic setting. It presents a range of exhibitions by local, regional, national and international artists to enrich the cultural life of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The gallery's permanent collection focuses on American paintings from the 19th and 20th centuries. Other holdings include old master and contemporary prints and a select group of 19th-century European paintings from the Senator Andrew J. Sordoni collection.

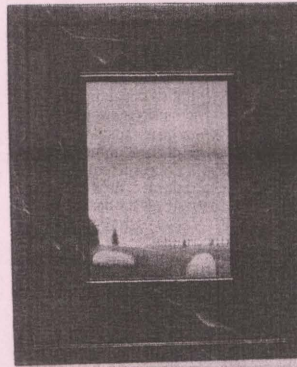
The gallery is named for the late Andrew J. Sordoni, a former state senator from Northeastern Pennsylvania and influential regional businessman.

Mr. Sordoni was a collector of European paintings and sculpture and Japanese Inro and Netsuke. A group of paintings from the Sordoni collection came to the gallery as part of the initial gift. Among the artists represented are Heinrich Burkel (German 1802-1869), Franz Moormans (Dutch 1831-1873) and Jean Georges Vibert (French 1848-1902).

The Sordoni family created an acquisitions fund for the gallery through the sale of a portion of the senator's collection. This fund has been designated for the purchase of American art and insures that the gallery will be able to expand its American holdings.

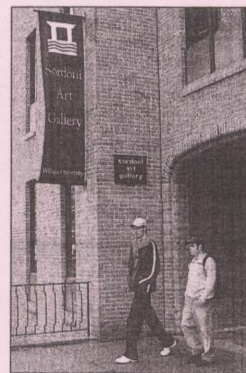
Ronald R. Bernier, Ph.D., director of the gallery, began his tenure at the gallery on Nov. 1, 2001. Mr. Bernier received his undergraduate degree from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and a master's and Ph.D. in art history at Essex University, England. He received a M.A. degree at the University of New Hampshire.

He came to the Sordoni Gallery



'THE WORLD IS BREATHING'
John Beerman, 1985

from Sioux City, Iowa, where he was executive director of the city museum. Prior to his Iowa endeavor he was associate director at the Krannert Museum at the University of Illinois. Before that, he had taught art history at several universities. This past spring, he participated in and



JACK KELLEY © TIMES-SHAMROCK

Jason Opalka, left, of Franklin Township, N.J., and Mike Scatton, of Hazleton, leave the Sordoni Art Gallery at Wilkes University.

completed the program of the Executive Leadership Wilkes-Barre.

"I came here because I was so impressed with the quality of the program at the gallery. It has a very strong national reputation and I feel it important to be a part of that," said Mr. Bernier. He added: "During my tenure here I will be doing more with community outreach, not just for Wilkes University but for the community at large to participate in our programs."

Located on the ground floor of Stark Learning Center, 150 S. River St., on the Wilkes University campus, the gallery is ideally situated in the historic section of the city, facing the River Common which extends along the east bank of the Susquehanna River.

The gallery provides an ambitious schedule of exhibitions, lectures and related programs, all of which are available free to the public.

The most recent exhibition at the gallery was the "Collecting At Century's End" selections from the Maslow Collection. The exhibition, which ran for six weeks, was curated by Mr. Bernier and Karen Evans Kaufer, associate director of the gallery.

The most recent Maslow exhibition was the third in a series which began as a two-part project



'AFFIRMING FLAME'
Willy Heeks, 1988

organized by the gallery in the late 1980s, the aim of which was to highlight some of the masterworks of The Maslow Collection, Wilkes-Barre.

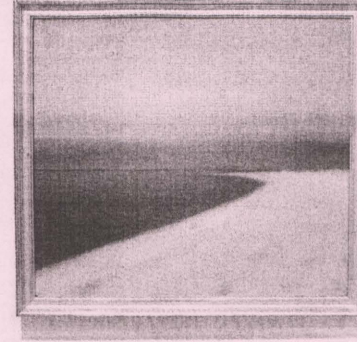
The first focused on "American Art Since WWII," which was scheduled during April and May in 1988. The second was "Artists of the '80s: Selected Works from the Maslow Collection," which was presented in April and May in 1989.

The gallery maintains an ongoing schedule of exhibitions throughout the year. The next will be "Re: Viewing Photography, The Photo Review @ 25" which will begin Jan. 13 and continue to Feb. 23.

Every summer, exhibits will feature selections from the permanent collection of the Sordoni Gallery. The 2003 exhibition will run from June 29, with upwards of a dozen artworks to be selected from the almost 1,300 pieces in the collection. These are mostly 19th and 20th century art.

Other staff members are Earl Lehman, preparator, and attendants Jillian Ford, Brianna Heron, Sara Scalzo and Sarah Leikosky.

Speaking of the gallery, Sharon Bowar said: "As a Professor of Art at Wilkes University, I am proud of the Sordoni Art Gallery and feel honored to have had op-



'FISHER BEACH'
John Beerman, 1988

portunities to exhibit my work there in several group shows and two solo exhibitions. The context in which works of art are shown is important to the artist and the art. We can trust that all exhibitions at the Sordoni Art Gallery will be highly professional, educational and will continue to improve the cultural climate of our community."

Ms. Bowar, a professor of art at Wilkes University, has taught painting, drawing and printmaking at Wilkes University since 1990. She said: "The Sordoni Gallery implements its mission by presenting exhibitions in a professional manner, by building a study collection of original artworks and by serving as a cultural focus for the citizens of Northeastern Pennsylvania."

Ms. Ford, of Nanticoke, a sophomore at Wilkes University, serves as a receptionist at the gallery. She observes: "People who visit the gallery will find some paintings more striking than others. Over all, they are an interesting variety. Modern art is my preference."

The gallery facilitates its mission of providing community service by engaging in community outreach and encouraging public participation in its programs, lectures and educational tours. To fulfill its responsibility

SORDONI ART GALLERY

Address: Wilkes University 150-180 S. River St., Wilkes-Barre

Curator: Ronald R. Bernier, Ph.D.

Hours: Open to the public daily, noon to 4 p.m.

2003 exhibition schedule:
"Re: Viewing Photography"

Jan. 13 - Feb. 23

Permanent collection

June 29 - Aug. 16

Jon Carsman

Sept. 7 - Oct. 19

Marguerite Zorach

Nov. 2 - Dec. 14

as a cultural and intellectual leader of the community, the gallery produces exhibition catalogues, written for the lay reader, which are distributed widely. The gallery personnel provide additional community service by participating on juries, arts panels and commissions.

The gallery is open to the public daily, from noon to 4:30 p.m.

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