

# Arts & Entertainment

## Artist's work on exhibit

By C. Scott Thompson

Continuing a tradition of regional art showings at the Haymarket Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St., are the watercolors of Connie Strohmyer. Her exhibit, which will continue through Sept. 19, displays a wide span of stylistic development that has occurred over a short span of time.

The exhibit is a rarity among art shows, because the viewer can see the distinct breaks in her recent progress.

Her earlier work is immediately identifiable. "And One Yellow Petunia" is representative of it. The work is mostly flora, rather pastel and heavily uses secondary accent colors: cobalt blue, burnt sienna, yellow ocher.

Technically, her paintings are still life, yet they possess a dynamic quality that leads the eye from off-center points to the matted edges. Her style is characterized by dominant bare space, and though it is beautifully subtle, the viewer easily senses implied detail in her work.

"Eucalyptus," another representative piece from her earlier period, uses umber and magness blue in her vague, tacitly detailed fashion. "Lilac Morning," with its cool violets and thayomine greens, shows her success at suggested form.

The later pieces are marked by bolder color and a move away from floral design toward landscape. There is less definition and a seeming effort to let the watercolor itself do more of the work.

Strohmyer discussed her later paintings and the changes seen in them.

"Watercolor is difficult to control," she said, "and part of the beauty of watercolor is what it can do for you."

She said she has been "heavily" influenced by artist Barbara Nechis. Strohmyer recently attended a workshop conducted by Nechis at the Parsons School of Design in New York City, she said, and came back more aggressive than before. It shows.

"Bottles and Bouquets," which features intense red rather than muted umber accents, has an abstract quality reminiscent of Matisse. Other later paintings like "Rural December" and "Crimson Country" are characterized by thicker washes and strokes. Both works seem a little unfinished and probably indicate a transition to a more consistent technique.

The most striking piece in the show, "In Bloom," also expresses the direction Strohmyer is working toward, yet it retains some of the beautiful subtlety of her earlier works. The painting reflects her bold new techniques while preserving much of her style, making it all the more interesting.

"In Bloom" has a fabulously rich floral design whose mood suggest a primeval woods. The colors are rich and earthy and evoke the Renaissance: forest greens, rose madder, lavender, umber. The depth and sense of motion through the work's translucent layers is unusual.

But sometimes, though the watercolors are both consistent and pleasing to look at, her matting detracts. On several paintings, the corners of the mat are too ornate and tend to overpower the work.

Strohmyer has painted seriously for about 10 years. Although she has worked with oil and acrylic, she now paints almost exclusively with watercolor. She painted more abstracts during her training at UNL than she has recently, she said, but a sense of abstraction remains in her work.

"It's all a matter of practicality," she said. "I want to sell my work."

She isn't looking to expand the subject matter of her paintings, she said, but is instead looking for new ways to present those subjects.

"I'm very comfortable with still lifes and landscapes," she said. "I think people in the Midwest relate to the outdoors."

When asked where she would like to be in five years, she said, "I think I'd like to leave Lincoln eventually. After you sell your paintings in one area, it's easy to get oversaturated."

## Elegy for the Starlite Ballroom

Where once was a garden full of beer-drinking Czechoslovakians, there is now nothing but drying grass. What was once a thriving ballroom west of Wahoo, Neb., is now a mere obstacle to pastureland in the midst of grazing horses. It has died, again. And this time, the Starlite Ballroom may not be coming back.

When it closed the first time, about seven years ago, the villagers of the neighboring towns were in a state of shock. "Why would it close up?" people said to each other. "I was there only a year ago, and the place was packed. It couldn't have been the money. . . ." However, the recession had hit even these rough and ready residents of America's heartland, and attendance at the Starlite's weekly dances dwindled to nothing. An advertising blitz ensued, leading even to commercials on the Sunday polka station, but to no avail. "Starlite Shut Down" headlined the Wahoo weekly.

It was at this time that the gossip started flowing, spontaneously, as if emerging out of the ground. Some locals said the ballroom was completely torn apart inside and that the new owners of the Starlite (it changed hands several times after the initial closing, it was said) had renovated its spacious interior to facilitate a pickup camper factory. Others related more believable tales: The latest purchaser was supposedly a young, innovative farmer of the area who had calculated that, if the proper alterations were made, the Starlite Ballroom could contain at least three times the amount of silage as one of his Harvestore silos. The Starlite seemed doomed.

For a while then, the Saunders County residents just seemed to forget about the Starlite. Oh, they still had to pass it on Highway 92 when they went to the doctor or hauled their grain to market. But it was now little more than a place that had been, a historical landmark to a simple people, an anachronism. And, as some still believed, a fodder pit.

Then, as if an explosion had racked the community, the news came out: The Starlite would reopen! Young children smiled at the thought of finally becoming a part of the legend and attending a dance there. Older folk, always somewhat nostalgic, merely hoped it would be like it used to be.

And it was. People reserved it for their wedding receptions. The Friday night polka dances came back into popularity. Several rock'n'roll bands were even booked there, and the youth swarmed through its doors. The Starlite Ballroom had the Midas touch, and every event held there turned a profit for its beaming owner. That is, until of late.

The blue- and white- striped ballroom has again fallen on hard times, and this time there may be no resurrection. Farmers, who pretty much comprise the clientele, have again hit true economic distress and have been in no spirits to attend the Sunday afternoon beer gardens. The Friday night celebrators have also found their numbers lessened, and the ballroom books once again tallied losses on almost all functions. It's died again.

Fenced stallions roam in the parking lot as a "For Sale" sign fades in the summer sun. The storm doors are locked and the famous Starlite rotating glass ball is stilled in the darkness. It'd take a miracle to bring the good times back, again. A miracle.

Don Vasa

"Elegy for the Starlite Ballroom" is part of a weekly feature called Original Work. UNL students interested in submitting prose, poetry, art or photography should contact David Wood at the Daily Nebraskan.

# Classified 472-1761

**for sale**

**GARAGE SALE**  
1844 WASHINGTON  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
9-4

**FURNITURE**  
Stove, refrigerator, dinette set, couch, chairs, students desk, end tables, lamps, buffets, bed, night stand, occasional tables, dresser, chest of drawers, storage cabinets, bookshelves.

**TOOLS**  
Drill press, bench grinder, sander, large vise, radial arm saw, hand saw, air hammer, assorted air tools, and wrenches, screw drivers, socket sets, miscellaneous power, electric, air and hand tools.

**ANTIQUES**  
Oak parlor table, three-piece oak bedroom set, fancy serpentine oak dresser, 13-drawer oak spool cabinet, five-leg oak dining room table, eight-piece walnut dining room set with seven leaves, old trunk with leather handles, 8 porcelain-based bar stools, four bird-design pressed back chairs, collection of framed pictures dating to early 1900s, early kerosene lamps, red wing western crocks, curved beveled cut mirror, waterfall bedroom set, 10-blue Depression. Occupied Japan glassware.

**JEWELRY**  
Silver, gold, turquoise, bronze and semi-precious stones set in bracelets, necklaces, pendants, rings and earrings.

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
Typewriter, vacuum cleaner, lawn mower, 10-speed bicycle, household items, other items too numerous to mention.

**ALL ITEMS PRICED TO SELL FAST**

**AUCTION**  
Monday, Sept. 6 1 p.m.  
at 48th & St. Paul in Alley  
Furniture, sofa, end tables, kitchen tables, beds, desk, jewelry and much more.

**GARAGE SALE**  
1149 SO. 17  
Furniture, sofa, end tables, chairs, records, jewelry, desk, kitchen items, more. Thur. 1 p.m. until dark on Saturday.

1982 Motron Moped, Great condition \$350, 474-1344 ext. 305 or 423-3957.

One each Yamaha Harmon-Kardon receivers; Dual Kenwood turntables. 477-1357 eves and weekends.

75 Suzuki 750, immaculate, all black, fairings, bags, trunk, AM/FM cassette, mag with tubeless tires, cover, much more making it one of a kind. 483-5751.

80 Honda CM400 Automatic 3,000 miles, clear fairing, crash bar, luggage rack, trunk, extras. 483-4751.

HONDA 125 cc MOTOR-CYCLE. 7,000 miles. \$350. Great school transportation. Call 475-3321 days.

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Person - Wolinsky CPA Review course, Complete Set - Cassette tapes and Instruction Books include all parts of exam. 489-4996 evenings.

Univaga Gran Turismo Bicycle, 10-speed, 3 months old, perfect condition. Call 472-8699.

Bicycles for sale, almost new 21" Motobecane 31 1/2" Windsor Pro. Call 458-7984.

**WANTED:** Home for my one-year-old male tabby-cat. 476-9928 after 6.

IBM electric typewriter, 13" model, extra large type, standard carbon ribbon, excellent condition. \$275. 489-4630 after 5:30 weekdays.

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Refrigerator \$50, bed \$20, 3 sofas \$50, \$20, kitchen table \$15, 1024 New Hampshire, 485-8565.

78 Honda CX500 custom w/fairing. Must sell, sacrifice. 435-3621 eves.

**AUCTION**  
Monday, Sept. 6 1 p.m. at 48th & St. Paul in Alley. Furniture, sofa, end tables, kitchen table, beds, desk, jewelry and much more.

Small knee hole desk. Adjustable walnut shelves - coffee table, lamps, chairs, steel file cabinet, etc. 9-12 noon. Sat. Sept. 4 987 Stuart Bldg.

House close to East Campus for rent. \$350 month plus utilities. If interested call 464-0228 or 466-4365.

One Bedroom, Two Bedroom Apartments, Houses and Townhouses  
**COLDWELL BANKER TOWN & COUNTRY REALTY**  
Ron Hinkley  
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Attn, Grad Students: Need a quiet place to live for a couple of months? Nice room with bath in S.E. Lincoln home. Use of elec. typewriter, TRS-80 computer available. Sept. and Oct. \$250 month. 489-2768.

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Pretty, outgoing young lady to model in a hot tub during the State Fair. Salary plus commission. Call 489-8964.

**Need: 2 tickets** together Iowa game or season tickets. Call 474-8978 after 5:00 p.m.

**Need 2 football tickets** together for season. Call 466-8389 evenings.

**Wanted: 3 male tickets** to Iowa game. Call 473-8710.

**Buying class rings, diamonds, gold and silver items, coins, watches, jewelry, baseball cards, comic books, Elvis Presley and Beatles items, old guns, Miller's Used Furniture & Antiques, 2719 N. 48. 10:30-5:30. 484-3128.**

**WANTED: 2 female and 10 male tickets** to Iowa game. Will pay well! 473-0693.

1 male, 1 female football ticket with student IDs. 475-5244 after 4:30 p.m.

**Wanted 2 male - 2 female tickets** to Iowa-Nebraska game. Will pay fair price. Ask for Pat Rooney 475-8929.

**Need two sets of male/female tickets** for Iowa game. Call Peg at 473-8721.

**Will pay \$100 for a male season football ticket and I.D.** Call 472-8113.

**Need 4 male and 2 female tickets** for Iowa game. Call 485-7351 ask for Blake.

**3 general admission tickets and 1 male student ticket** for Iowa game. Call 475-9353.

**Need male general admission football ticket.** Name your price. Call 472-8082 ask for Joe after 6:00.

**NEED 1 FEMALE SEASON TICKET \$90. CALL COLLECT (402) 397-4994.**

**Need 2 student season tickets - together or single.** 475-4651 after 5:30.

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**help wanted**

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UNL Job Locator  
Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

**wanted**

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Needed 1 or 2 male FB tickets for Iowa game. Call 472-8924.

Wanted: Two football tickets, male + female, student or general. Call collect 673-5295.

Need two female football tickets for Iowa game. Top price. Call Dean or Mark at 464-0288.