

ART ADVENTURE SAM DALKILIC-MIESTOWSKI

Vibrant, futuristic painting is area artist's focus

The Steeple Gallery continues to attract exceptionally fine artists throughout the Chicagoland area.

Frances A. Cox has been exhibiting her original oil paintings at the gallery for nearly a year. Her subject matter is wonderfully vibrant, and futuristic.

Even though her compositions incorporate nature and flowers, her compositions are bold and powerful, which can appeal to collectors who have a modern sensibility, as well as those who prefer a touch of traditionalism.

I asked Frances Cox how her art journey started.

"I was raised in an inner city ethnic Chicago neighborhood where my parents owned the local bakery. My earliest memories were of me drawing on the unlimited supply of brown wrapping paper, usually in the sight of a splendidly messy catalpa tree on our front lawn."

On Sunday afternoons the family would drive into the country — which was much closer that it is now. Those afternoons gave me a real love of the possibilities of nature and space. My redefined landscapes and still lifes may be the product of a child's imagination that only glimpsed nature briefly, but was a reward for the weeks work done well."

She further explains, "I graduated from Marquette University and attended the Art Institute of Chicago. Art has always been an integral part of my life.

"I've had a solo exhibit at the South Bend Museum of Art and at The Freeport Museum of Art in Illinois.

"I have been included in every yearly juried exhibit at the Midwest Museum of Art where in many cases, I've been fortunate to receive a purchase award. Most recently, I had three paintings included in the 2010 Rockford Art Museum Biennial, where I won a Merit Award.

"This museum also featured my painting on their 2008 Rockford Midwestern Art Exhibition invitation."



This is an honor any artist would savor.

Frances Cox's work has been exhibited throughout the midwest including in Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana.

I asked Frances what inspires her to create her art work.

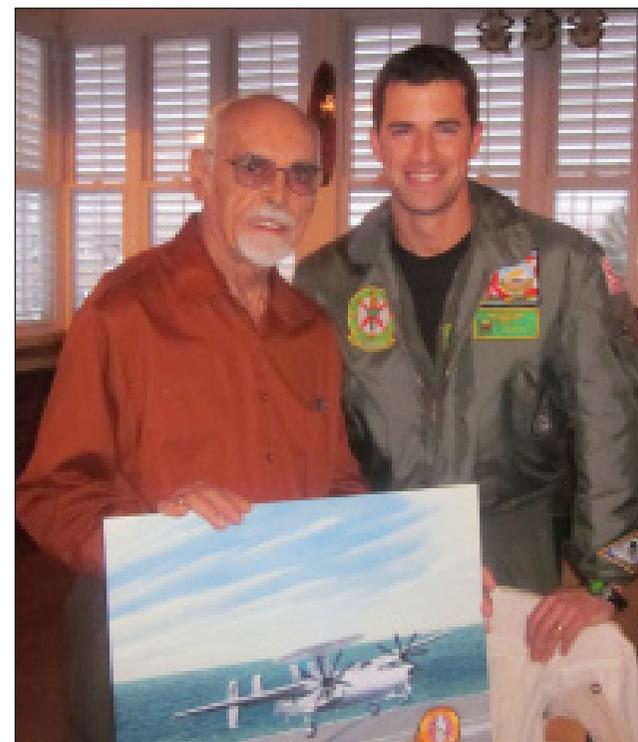
"When I look at plant forms, I view them as botanical singularities having the characteristics of other living things. I transfer to plants metaphors for human feelings and appearances."

About a dozen oil paintings are currently on exhibit at the Steeple Gallery in St. John. To arrange a visit, call 365-1014 or email samowner@sbcglobal.net or visit www.thesteeplegallery.com.



Oil paintings by Frances Cox at Steeple Gallery.

PILOT MAKES C.P. VISIT



Lt. Robert Stochel stands with local aviation artist Al Horvat during a coming home party last week. Horvat painted a picture of Stochel's plane landing on a carrier. | PHOTO PROVIDED

Navy's 'Shooter' welcomed home

BY KITTY CONLEY

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Crown Point octogenarian Al Horvath had quietly asked Navy pilot Lt. Robert Stochel's mom Jill for a photograph of his spy plane coming down for a landing on the carrier. She was more than happy to accommodate him.

At a reception to welcome home Rob and Christiana Stochel held at Buddy and Pals, Horvath brought a painting in for Lt. Rob Stochel, a Navy pilot.

It was a first meeting between the two men who are separated in age by a half-century, but united by a love of airplanes.

Horvath is well known for his exhibits at places like the Carnegie Library in Rensselaer, the Vogt Visual Arts Center in Tinley Park, the Hammond library and The Lilly Art Foundation in Carmel. Horvat has had a love of art since high school but became productive after a stroke affected the right side of his body. He is left-handed and the time spent in peaceful contemplation of his artwork has helped control his blood

pressure.

His painting reflects the awards that Lt. Stochel has received as top hook.

In addition to visiting St. Mary's school in Crown Point on Wednesday, Stochel also went to Hammond Academy for Science and Technology where his aunt Debbie Fenno teaches. Fenno's students wrote letters that were presented to him.

Excerpts from the letters:

Dear Shooter;

Thanks so much for coming and explain your job. I'm sorry but I will stick with being a surgeon when I go to college.

Dear Mr. Stochel,

Now I know what my mom means when she says pray for those in the Army, Navy, etc. I never thought of how dangerous it can be to fly a plane. Now when you're out there I will hope and pray that you make it back safely.

Dear Lt. "Shooter";

I just wanted to thank you for helping our country. I understand that you're not just