

Lack.

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Art Review

by
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A new exhibition opened Sunday, May 21, in the galleries of the Concord Art Association at 15 Lexington rd. There are paintings, drawings and some etchings by Richard F. Lack, a resident of Minnetonka, Minnesota.

There are 22 oils and etchings in the upstairs gallery most of which would have a more immediate appeal to those who appreciate the more traditional art form.

In some cases, the realism attained by the artist approaches a kind of orthodoxy similar to magazine cover art. In others there is a touch of the Dutch masters, and other familiar techniques, which give one the impression that the artist has spent a good deal of time studying great painters of the past.

The outstanding characteristic of this exhibition is the finished appearance of the paintings and the good taste in frames. Frames may seem like an insignificant detail, but there are some fine paintings, in the traditional vein, which turn away interest because of careless framing.

The artist does more with his portraits than the landscapes or

still life, but there is a fuzzy, or washed-out quality to many of the paintings which detracts from their ultimate appeal. This characteristic, which leads one to believe he is peering through a haze, or milkiness, could be due to visual characteristics of the artist, or problems in the technique of finishing. Some of the color combinations are fairly complicated, and the method of brushing across, from one color to another, may have added to the out-of-focus effect.

One of the results of this technique, as it is used in this case, is to stylize a kind of ideal figure, especially in the portraits, which does not seem real or alive.

Beyond these technical problems, many of the paintings can be appreciated for a certain sentimental quality and their own statement which is, obviously, quite personal to the artist.

The most interesting painting, to me, is "The Minister", upstairs on the right, which exhibits the best of what the artist has learned from past masters, and is the least affected by technical problems. Background and coloring are sensitively rendered to give this portrait a living quality which most of the others lack.

There are a number of small etchings, downstairs, in the right gallery, which are interesting, and underpriced.

In the left gallery, members Roger Gilson ("Silent Pool") and Dean Minor ("Boat Aground") show why they are past prize winners.

"Wild Flowers" by Nan Wezniak of Concord is also a well-done painting. The exhibit goes through June 18.