

Two reasons to rejoice *Hi, Nan - Saved three for you this time, just in case*

Artist graduates, wins prize

By Jane Q. Cantu

One Concord artist will have two reasons to rejoice at her commencement in Boston at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (BMFA) on Friday.

Painter Nan Wezniak will receive her fifth-year diploma from the Museum School and a \$10,000 prize given by the Museum for her work.

Wezniak and three other fifth-year students from a class of 13 were chosen for BMFA's Traveling Scholarships, awarded by a five-member jury. Wezniak's paintings, large canvases and framed mixed media on paper, are on exhibit at BMFA with the other winners through June 8.

"What pleases me most is that the jury didn't look at my age (42) or me

-- only my work on the wall," Wezniak says. Having spent "literally seven days a week" in her Boston studio this past year, Wezniak feels she has now earned, "a month off, without picking up a paint brush." Part of this time will be spent planning the art journeys which her museum scholarship will make possible.

Wezniak has no definite travel plans at the moment. She is not quite down to earth yet from the news which came last week in a letter from the Dean of the BMFA School. However, she believes China will be first on her list. Other countries will include France, Spain, Greece and Egypt. "I have travelled a lot, but never for myself or my own art," Wezniak confides.

Particularly interested in "the timeless quality of art," Wezniak says she will visit the work of cave artists and other ancient wall paintings. But, she says, "I do not wish to recreate the art of another civilization, ancient or modern. I do wish to absorb the beauty and relevant information of these monuments of art...so that I can more clearly and more richly state the options valid for me in the art forum of the 80's."

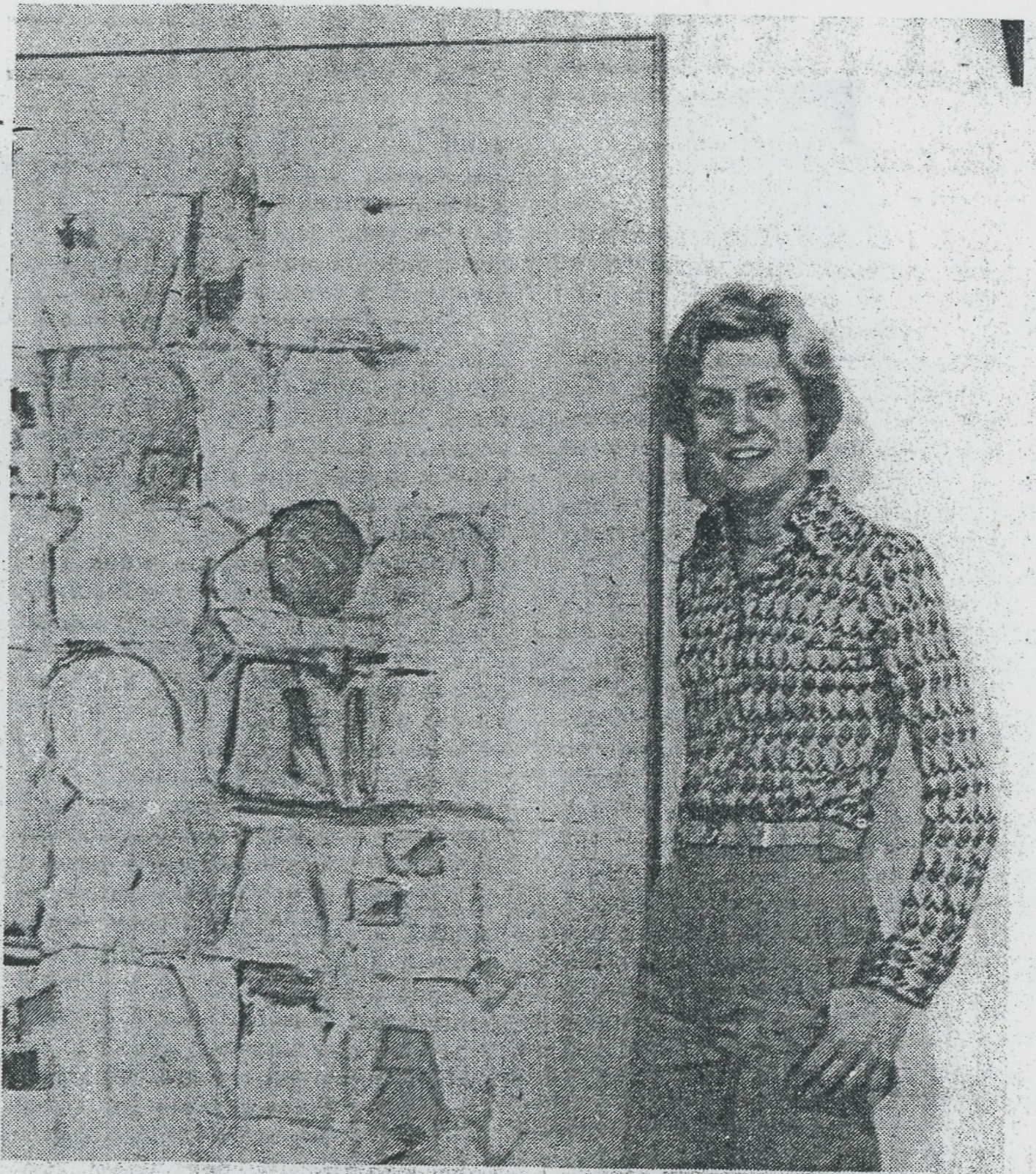
In 1979 the Concord Art Association selected a painting by Nan Wezniak for a first prize. She has exhibited work at Clark Gallery in Lincoln, Impressions Gallery in Boston, and Flagg Gallery in Jamaica Plain.

Wezniak's husband Frank and their three children have supported her artistic endeavors since she began museum school five years ago.

"I couldn't have done it without their backing," says Wezniak, the only fifth-year scholarship winner who is also a mother in a traditional "nuclear family." As such she has one other "award" which means a lot to her. Hanging on her kitchen wall is a citation typed by her son on Mothers' Day which mentions her outstanding achievements "as a mother, for her art, and for her help with English and French" (her major at Wellesley College).

Joining Wezniak for this year's BMFA Traveling Scholarships are fifth-year students: David Armstrong, New York photographer; former Concord resident Paola Savarino and Beverly Brown; both painters in Boston. In addition, five alumni of the museum school will receive awards for their photography, painting and sculpture.

The jury members were Carl Chiarenza, photographer and teacher at Boston University; Michael Mazur, well-known American artist; Stephen Prokopoff, head of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston; Agnes Saalfield noted art collector and trustee of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City; and Scott Schaeffer, assistant curator, painting department at BMFA.



Artist

Concord artist Nan Wezniak shows one of her recent paintings partly for which she received a \$10,000 prize from the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Her work is on exhibit at the museum through June 8.

(Photo by Jane Q. Cantu)

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