

Too many junk painters in city local

artist says

By CONNIE RAE

The people of Mississauga are well-educated and should appreciate good art, says Heinz Gofforth, Mississauga artist who refers to himself as a master painter, but the good artists are drawn to Toronto. "There are too many big-mouthed junk painters in Mississauga who smother the art galleries."

These so-called artists can turn out lovely mountain scenes by the dozen, he says. They look pretty, they sell, but it's assembly-line mass production and it's disgusting.

"People get just as good value from reproductions from Hong Kong," he claims.

Heinz confesses to turning out such art on occasion to supplement his income but he's not proud of it.

"I will lend my terrific hand

to copying photographs to make a living," he says, "but I do not consider it honest art."

His 'master hand' is best known outside Mississauga. Every year Heinz makes a couple of trips to the United States where he does portrait paintings for moneyed people.

He will do portraits for a minimum of \$60, usually using watercolor and hard pastel, but he says he has received as much as \$12,000 for a dual life-sized portrait of an American couple, the Pauls.

His portraits display a gentle, life-like quality. He takes pride in having done a portrait of Premier William Davis' father and a harbor scene for the late Lady Eaton.

And he takes pride in Canada. Born in Dusseldorf, he studied art at the masterschool in Krefeld, Ger-

many. While there, he met his wife, Christine, who has since turned her artistic talents to hair beautification. ("There are enough mediocre artists," she says.) The two have lived in Europe and the United States, but have been in Canada for 20 years.

"An artist can be inspired here," says Heinz.

Christine agrees enthusiastically.

"Canadians have so much — the most beautiful landscape in the world — but they are so occupied with money. They don't realize what they have here, they miss so much beauty."

Heinz wants to interpret what Canada is all about and much of Canada can be found in Mississauga, he says. The eastern faces in his abstract painting, Women of The

World, can be found in Mississauga.

"I would like to show Canadians how to live in this lovely country. I want to paint what I see, hear, feel. I want to encourage good honest artists to display their work in my gallery and bring people to their senses," he says.

Heinz is an admirer of the Group of Seven. "They had the courage to do something truly Canadian," and Heinz loves to take a wide brush and capture the rugged impressionist beauty of Georgian Bay.

He says he has connections with the upper class, but has no energy to push his art.

"I'm not rich, but I get great enjoyment from my art — perhaps that is something that the millionaires can't buy," he says.



Heinz Gofforth who has opened up an Art 'N' Beauty Shop in Mississauga displays a sketch. In the background are abstract nudes.

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