



Staff photo by Fred Loek

Mississauga artist Fred Lipscombe is showing a retrospective of his work that dates back to the 1970s and also features his recent work. The show is on exhibit in the Texaco Room at the Port Credit Library.

*Peel Bio.
July 18/99
MN*

An artist's retrospective

Lipscombe looks back

By TOM MICHIBATA
Staff

There's one thing you can say about Mississauga artist Fred Lipscombe.

He's predictably unpredictable.

Throughout his 25 years of painting, the Mississauga painter has been somewhat of an artistic commuter with no real destination.

Sure, he's investigated various trends and fads in his works, but he never stays with any one particular thing for any length of time.

Lipscombe, who prefers to work in oils, will eventually tire of a particular subject or take off in another direction, seemingly from out of nowhere. And, as a result, his work is always fresh, vivacious and poignant.

The artist's diversity and spark will

be in full evidence in a show of 50 pieces on exhibit through July at the Port Credit Library's Texaco Room.

Lipscombe started out doing portraits of people, both full-length depictions and head-and-shoulder jobs. Then he moved into abstract cityscapes depicting scenes from around Toronto and Georgian Bay landscapes. Next came mythological and Biblical motifs.

In February, his exhibit at Lakeview Library featured abstract sports scenes, notably hockey and snooker.

"My subjects are eclectic," said Lipscombe, adding that Canada's landscape has much to offer an artist who is hungry for inspiration. "You can travel across the country from sea to sea and it's incredible what you will see."

Among the works on display is an

abstract depiction of Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia.

Lipscombe, 72, didn't launch himself fully into art until after moving to Mississauga from England in 1956. He was 29 at the time, married to wife Margaret and a father to twin daughters.

He studied general art techniques at Central Tech High School in Toronto. He moved onto the Toronto School of Art and now defunct Three Schools Studios, where he focused on life drawing.

"I had some interest in art but I was too busy working," said Lipscombe, who was a baker and a communications worker in his previous professional lives. "I guess I have a natural talent. Some people golf, I like to paint."