

Joan Lowndes at library

# Artist returns to Lorne Park with exhibition of abstracts

By MARK HOLMES  
Staff

*Reel Maps  
Jan 11/95*

Joan Lowndes could be called a late bloomer, but people who want to label her, or her work, can see for themselves at the Clarkson-Lorne Park Library.

Lowndes, 59, lived in Lorne Park for more than 24 years. She is returning to her roots with pieces from four series of abstracts done in watercolors, acrylics and ink.

The artist admits to being a newcomer on the local art scene. She started seriously only three years ago.

A housewife raising four children, Lowndes said she was too busy to indulge her artistic yearnings. But, while exploring the area around her winter home in Sarasota, Florida, she discovered a vibrant arts community. Interest led her to take classes that, in turn, exposed her to artists from across the continent.

A teacher recognizing the new artist's latent talent told her that if she would paint every day for three years she would "be there" artistically.

Lowndes did her best to paint every day and, as promised, the latent talent came out.

"I quickly came to the conclusion that I wasn't going to be painting pretty little pictures," she said of her

bold, vibrant work.

She has been inspired by mountains, water and sculpture. Each time she is inspired, Lowndes embarks on a series of paintings. Representations from four of her series will be on display at the library until Feb. 3.

Selections from *First Snow*, *A Walk On The Ocean Floor*, *Tangles* and *Ciré Perdue* are set at the library, although none of her *Ciré Perdue* paintings will be for sale since several of the pieces are still in juried competition.

Elucidating on the inspiration behind *Ciré Perdue* Lowndes said it was a trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico that brought her to a sculpture garden called *Shidoni*. It was the myriad of shapes, shades and contours that prompted the series.

Since leaving Lorne Park, Lowndes has run a craft shop north of Mississauga and, although living in the picturesque village of *Terra Cotta*, she maintains numerous friendships here.

The fact those friends and acquaintances will undoubtedly turn out to admire her work is a bit nerve wracking she said. "Abstract paintings are difficult to relate to, and I know so many people in the area. This show has really put my heart in my mouth," she said.

For library hours and information on library programs call 822-1241.



Former Lorne Park resident Joan Lowndes is returning to her roots, bringing with her a collection of paintings to be shown at the Clarkson Lorne Park Library until Feb. 3.