

FEEL BIDE.

SMITH, ROXANN  
VIVIAN

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BY SANDY STOUTH <sup>M. Times</sup> <sup>Oct 27-117 22, 25</sup>

First thing in the morning, Roxann Vivian Smith takes the phone off the hook and forgets about housework.

"I don't like being interrupted," says the Lorne Park resident. "My work has to flow consistently."

Oil and water colour paintings lie stacked against the walls, piled on the table in her dining room workshop.

"I used to have a resentful feeling when I had to do the floors, laundry, etc.," she says. But since she's been painting seriously for the past five years, "I'm five times happier than ever before. I've been dabbling for a long time, but now I put painting first."

When she finishes her morning painting sessions, she hastily does the housework, then three days a week she rushes to her part-time afternoon job as a chiropractor's assistant. When she is back painting, her brushes reflect the landscape scenes of the Woodeden, Birchwood and Lorne Park Estates areas, which she frequently visits in her spare time.

"I was never that interested in painting at school . . . it was later. I was just sitting with a friend sketching. He said I had a feel for art and sketching trees and should develop it."

In 1969, she stopped working full-time as a girl Friday for an insurance company, for health reasons.

"Since I worked from nine to five, I was lucky to get one painting done a month. But I never had any real problems doing the housework.

"The children would help prepare meals and I'd do the housework on the weekends or after work." When Roxann quit work, she joined the Humber Valley Club and studied under a number of artists including Helen Smith and Adrian Dingle.

"Painting began to be a whole new thing for me. It was exciting," she says. "I started with a small box of paints, a poor brush and poor paper." Now she pays \$3.45 to \$4.50 a sheet for paper, and has been using a palette knife since Christmas.

Last week she had a one-woman art show at the Sean Erin Gallery, 285 Lakeshore Rd. E. In the past, she has shown at the Lambton Gallery, Four Seasons and Variety Club in Toronto, Central Library, Mississauga, and Streetsville Library, Streetsville.

Her six by eight inch water colour mushroom paintings sell for about \$35, and large oil paintings of still life, landscape and flowers sell for about \$200.

Now that her son is married, and two daughters, aged 19 and 17, will both soon be working, Roxann dreams of the day when she can paint full-time.

"I would really like to paint full-time, but I know it won't be for three years at least. For now, the part-time job is adequate to cover the expenses of my paintings."

Her husband, Victor, works for the Town of Mississauga, on the Parks and Recreation Board, and is a musician.

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**Painter Roxann Vivian Smith stands in front of an exhibit of her work. She does water colour and oil paintings of still life, landscape and flowers and has exhibited at a number of art shows.**