

Exhibited at Harborfront:

June 11-75 MN

Peel County

 **Rediscovering a latent talent!**

By **BOB PENNYCOOK**

With a husband, three children, two cats, a dog, and building a house in the country, Francis White still found time to complete some oil canvases for exhibition last weekend.

Mrs. White's work was exhibited over the weekend at Toronto's Harborfront, as part of the arts and craft show in the month-long tribute to women called Festival of Women and the Arts.

The Hurontario St. resident has only been painting in oils for less than a year, but her artistic bent dates back to her youth.

"I took art lessons right through until Grade 9, and I would create crayon pictures on large pieces of board," she said. "My father has been after me for years to take up painting, but it wasn't until he dug up some of my old art work, done when I was 10 years old, that I decided maybe I still had the talent."

She said she hauled out a sketch pad and began drawing a few objects that were close at hand, discovering that she still had the knack.

"My sister gave me some oil paints as a present, and although I had never worked with color before, I immediately began to work up a canvas."

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Combining two or three photographs, Mrs. White takes the best features of each and creates her own painting.

"I'm gradually getting better at mixing color. At first it was simply a matter of experimentation, and still is to some extent, but now I'm more sure of myself."

Once she decided to take up painting, which consumes most of her spare time, her husband Bob felt that he needed a hobby too.

"I'd always been fascinated with music, and, although I couldn't play, I went out and bought myself an organ," he says.

Now, both husband and wife work on their hobbies to relax.

"Everyone needs a hobby," said Mrs. White. "I find I'm more relaxed, now that I've been painting, than ever before."

Because she had more paintings than spaces on the wall to hang them, Mrs. White set about to find an avenue to sell her work.

Through a friend she hit upon the Harborfront show during the Festival of Women, and last weekend was the first public exhibition of her work.

The festival opened last Wednesday with Viveca Lindfors' one-woman show *I Am a Woman* and will continue through to the end of June.

Other activities scheduled for the festival include single and multi-media performances at the St. Lawrence Centre and Harborfront, visual art exhibits, a month-long

exhibit and sale, and lectures at Ryerson College.

Senior women are organizing a senior women's day and black women have set up *Strange Fruit: A Day with Black Women*.

And *What's Cooking* in Toronto is a creative recipe contest planned under the auspices of the festival at Harborfront.

The women working on the festival include visual artists, writers, arts educators, musicians, actors, playwrights, film, radio and television representatives, and members of community and women's groups.

For dates, times and places of the events during the month, contact Festival of Women and the Arts, 21 McGill St. Toronto, 366-0331.