

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Helen Will just loves to play with her paints

By BETTE PAULI
Special

Mississauga artist Helen Will is swiftly gaining recognition across Canada and the United States.

Her recent art work is on display until Feb. 19 at the Destiny Lifestyle Enrichment Centre in Oakville.

Will's expertise is evident when you examine her paintings. Her use of inks give her watercolors a rich vibrancy. She uses smooth flowing lines in her designs.

When you look closely, you begin to see faces of people and animals, fishes and birds, very delicately appearing in clouds, rivers and shafts of light.

"I play with paints, sometimes simply allowing my brush to glide across the paper, with no real thought or pattern," said Will.

"During my idle ramblings, or when I do have a definitive plan, I often find faces emerging by chance. When this happens, I enlarge on the imagery and work it into my final art work, giving it

new dimension."

Will didn't actually start painting until her youngest child — now aged 15 — was in Grade 1.

"I had always admired Oriental art. The serenity of Japanese sumi-e appealed to me."

Will has studied under many artists, including well-known Mississaugans Brigitte Schreyer, Roxann Smith and Fay Sproule.

"Now I have established a style of my own," said Will, who also happens to be

a teacher and practitioner of therapeutic touch — a form of holistic therapy.

Will feels there has been significant change from her earliest works.

"My paintings continue to evolve from a realistic approach to reflect the energy and the connection between the body and the mind," said Will, who is also a registered nurse and a midwife.

Each of Will's paintings has a strong significance to the artist. Will has a story or a poem about each one.

Will's work has been on display in Mississauga libraries for several years and in 1990, she won the award for watercolor in the Library System's juried art show. Her winning painting, *The Dream-Catcher*, is available now in print form.

Two of her paintings were displayed in Kariya, Japan, in 1992 and 1994 juried art exchanges. Her show runs until Feb. 19 at the Destiny Lifestyle Enrichment Centre, 220 Wyecroft Rd. in Oakville. Call 905-845-YOGA for information.

Mississauga artist Helen Will poses with her painting, *Dance Of The Fairies*.

