

Art + Artist - 1938-1979

Sun. July 9, 1972

Alyce Vestal Has Show at Courtroom Gallery

Alyce Vestal, native Santa Cruzan and well-known artist, is now having her third one-man show of watercolors. It is on display at Cooper House Courtroom Gallery through the month of July.

Mrs. Vestal has received numerous awards and prizes for her work, including first prize at Santa Cruz County Fair and third place in the local Statewide Art Show.

"My work is predominantly with watercolor," she points out, "but I like to experiment. Believe it or not — lately, with 'Tree-Seal' mixed with water and glue. You can achieve marvelous textured effects — and it's cheap!"

Mrs. Vestal produces abstracts which she says "spring from her subconscious" — she never can plan her abstracts, they "just happen."

But more recently she has been trying to capture the essence of "old Watsonville," the era that is fast disappearing.

"The old apple orchards are being uprooted, the old barns are being torn down, the Victorian mansions are too costly to be kept up," she noted.

"What's sad is there isn't even time for this gentle era to die a natural death — it's being murdered — for profit. I guess I'm trying to capture in paint an era when man lived in harmony with the land."

Mrs. Vestal is the wife of award-winning photographer Sam Vestal of the Watsonville Register Pajaronian, and they have three children: Kirk, 17, who will go to Nuremburg, Germany, for a year as an exchange student with International Christian Youth Exchange; Kim, 14, and Victoria, 7.

Alyce studied art seriously for eight years and says she was influenced by Dave McGuire of Cabrillo College, Bob Moesle, Eric Oback and her husband, Sam.

Mrs. Vestal also sings professionally and majored in music at San Jose State College after graduating from Cabrillo College. She has sung at Carmel Bach Festival, Cabrillo Music Festival and does much solo work in churches and for organizations. She teaches Hatha Yoga through the YWCA in Watsonville and practices transcendental meditation.



Artist Alyce Vestal captures the essence of fast disappearing "old Watsonville."