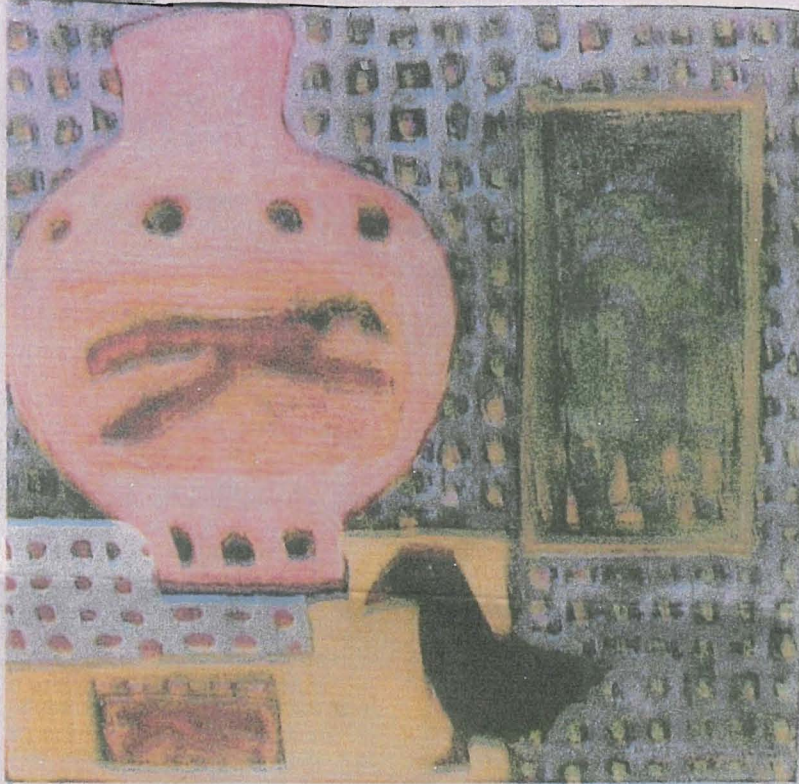


Phyllis Braff



A disciple of the Italian Futurists reaches for visual poetry in motion.

'Dealer's Choice'

Lizan Tops Gallery, 66 Newtown Lane, East Hampton. Through April 26. 324-3424.

This best-foot-forward season preview rambles through a large sampling of the gallery's interests.

One area is devoted to serene, unpeopled East End landscapes by a dozen artists who tend to emphasize sparkling, luminous deep space. Paintings by Ralph Carpentier, Terry Elkins, Joel Corcos Levy and Lois Gold offer some handsomely nuanced skies, while examples by Tom Sarrantonio use pebbles or hay balls to build powerful foreground areas.

More studied responses to natural phenomena occur in other sections, ranging from Robert Kushner's iconic enlargements of a single flower to Cynthia Knott's resonant interpretations of atmospheric conditions to Cyril David's memorable small pencil drawing interpreting, with great mood and character, the vast breadth of a tree farm.

Assertive abstractions are here, too, and make a compelling impact. Several gestural pieces by Connie

Fox have an edgy power, while major examples by Dan Rizzie combine spare, crisp linear motifs with sumptuous glossy surfaces.

Joyous and celebratory, though more subdued, Rex Lau's starkly synthesized paintings inspired by garden settings stand out for their refinement. There is also a quiet intellectual current that is both fresh and engaging.

Denise Regan's new paintings provide the exhibition's liveliest imagery. A number are representative of the way she combines bold, unrelated elements — a schematic house, birds, goldfish, flowers and patterned textiles — in a diaristic manner. Other canvases are reminders that Ms. Regan is at her best in her renderings of huge, frontalized faces that are playfully simplified yet smartly sophisticated at the same time.

Among the 65 works are pieces representing artists who have had large presentations at Lizan Tops in recent seasons, including the sculptor Bill King, the photographer Richard Calvo, and the painters Esteban Vicente, Paul Resika and Jan Yoors.