

The Charlotte Post

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PHOTO/CENTER OF THE EARTH GALLERY

"St. Mark's Windows" is one of the works included in "Tiny Treasures" at Center of the Earth Gallery.

'Tiny Treasures'

By Sandy Seawright
THE CHARLOTTE POST

"Tiny Treasures"
Center of the Earth Gallery
3204 North Davidson St.

If you gave 41 artists the assignment to paint a 12 inch by 12 inch painting what would the results be?

Find out in this delightful show through December 29 at the 18-year-old Center of the Earth Art Gallery, the flagship of the North Davidson Street neighborhood.

As you would expect, since the artists were not given a specific subject to paint, the show has very diverse images. Kevin Hogan of Asheville in "Fluxmix Vocabulary Graphic Variant Series II" presents an elliptical design that has a feeling of infinity. Robert Azank presents an almost photo-realistic image of a lemon which makes us think of the lemon paintings of another artists with Asheville connections, the internationally known Donald Sultan.

These artists also use diverse media. Azank paints on linen. Laura McCarthy uses mixed media in "Other Species" a haunting, impressionistic composition. And Hogan design is silkscreen and oil on a panel.

Since the holidays are a family time, Center of the Earth's "family" is represented. Assistant gallery director Sharon Dowell remembers her time living in New York City with her painting "St. Marks Windows" documenting a building on St. Marks Place in lower Manhattan.

Gallery founder and owner Ruth Ava Lyons in her painting "First Step" presents a heavenly pastoral landscape with an abundance of billowing clouds. Alex Clark, who like Hogan has had many showings at this gallery, takes a different turn and gives us a political painting about the war in Iraq. What at first looks like a butterfly from across the gallery up close is revealed to be an insect with death skulls on its wings.

Very cheerful in pink, yellow and green is Dawn Rentz's "Welcome to the Poppy

Field." There may be a political/social message in this painting: however, we'll enjoy it as a joy of this hopefully cheerful season.

Hours at Center of the Earth are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from Noon to 5 p.m. Call the gallery at (704) 375-5756.