

Landscapes around the world inspire artists showing downtown

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About Art



of the wallpaper, the entire composition becomes a souvenir of a place, of nature and of a dwelling.

Heidi Edwards loves to add clouds with zest and bravura strokes of

paint on an otherwise flatly painted surface. A good example of this technique can be seen in her "Orange Lake," or her "10,000 Islands" (2001), which shows us a vast panorama of nature and two small fishermen in a boat. Joyce Ely-Walker painted "Sweet Briar Lake" (2003) with fluid strokes that still look wet. Using oil paint, she constructs a bank of trees along the body of water.

Recent Ringling grad Luke Steadman impresses us with his 12-panel composition called "Beachscapes" (2003). Each panel is an entirely different view where he might have recorded harsh light, cool shadows, day, night, rocks or sandy beaches. Peter Schroth also paints on small panels. His series "Farm from Hills" are 6-by-8-inch or 8-by-6-inch panels, and yet they draw us into a vast vista he has created. Josette Urso is showing a series of small panels she painted in Ireland recently. They are abstracted and painterly expressions of the unusual relationship of sea, land and sky she observed on this British isle.

Mira Mar Gallery on Palm Avenue is hosting a group show of landscape paintings through Sept. 15, and Sonnet Gallery on Main Street is introducing some new artists who also paint the landscape that surrounds them.

At Mira Mar, Trish Thompson adds texture to the surface of her paintings that asserts the fiber of the canvas. John

Catterall has contributed a diptych that is an experiment with photo-realism that fools and challenges our eyes to prune his garden to make sense of the spatial relationships in his composition.

Leslie Lerner's "Oceanside - Blue Day" (2003) is a sublime work of acrylic and pastel. A hazy, moisture-filled sky disguises the horizon in a coastal area. It dominates the top four-fifths of a canvas

where, in the bottom register, we see rocks emerging from the water.

Tom Judd paints on a variety of surfaces. On a book jacket he painted "Mountain Lake Landscape," where the spine of the book reads as if it were a plank of wood. He also paints on wallpaper a scene of a mountain and a lake that looks like the view through a window of a family cabin. Since you can still read parts



"Orange Lake," an oil on canvas by Heidi Edwards, is one of the works featured in Mira Mar Gallery's ongoing group show of landscapes.