

# Exhibition reflects real life slightly skewed

By KEVIN GOSTELLO  
CORRESPONDENT

SARASOTA — During the past two decades, figurative painting as a subject of advanced art has seen a revival.

In England, Lucian Freud paints nudes of disturbing frankness and vulnerability. The Norwegian painter Odd Nerdrum positions his nudes in dark environments as they reflect on the consequences of

emotional isolation.

Regionally, painter Lynn Davison, a graduate of the Ringling School of Art and Design, situates the nude in inexplicable predicaments or ambiguous domestic rituals, performed by figures that are ill prepared and unsure of the outcome of their divinations.

Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art/Mira Mar Gallery is currently exhibiting paintings and prints by Davison, created

since her last solo show at the gallery two years ago.

Like Freud and Nerdrum, Davison's figures are personifications of a nonspecific malevolence, due to decrepitude or acts of torment by one upon another.

It is a strong exhibit, giving evidence that the artist continues to grow as a chronicler of the disquiet that often accompanies the theater of life.

In a telephone interview, Davison acknowledged the influence of Freud and Nerdrum.

"Anyone who is a good figurative painter — living or dead — I've learned from," she said.

"I don't know exactly what's going on in them when I paint — the painting changes many times. I try not to analyze them."

A case in point is the oil-on-canvas "Sunday's Paper" (2002). Davison said the female nude on the black Formica and steel café table originally was a man sitting on a wall.

The finished painting is a woman slipping off the table as a man standing outside the room places a newspaper hat upon her head. His right arm stretches through an opening in a wall.

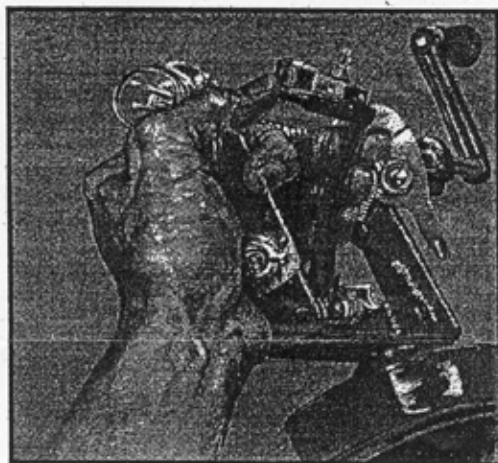
While the woman balances herself with her right hand against the edge of the opening, another man bends towards her from behind the table, holding her left hand.

This is not surrealism; no dreams are suggested. Here is an event in the physical world devoid of real-world explanation.

Within the space of such enigmas lies the nuance of Davison's art.

Hand With  
Apple Corer  
by Lynn  
Davison is on  
display at the  
Allyn Gallup  
Contemporary  
Art/Mira Mar  
Gallery.

COURTESY PHOTO



## REVIEW

Lynn Davison — New  
Paintings

Continues through Feb.  
28 at Allyn Gallup  
Contemporary Art/Mira  
Mar Gallery, 1284 N.  
Palm Ave., Sarasota. Call  
366-2093.