



Works of art displayed

Lifelong passion for Beverly Rinck

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Guest Contributor

"Paint what you feel. Paint what you see. Paint what is real to you." These words are attributed to Robert Henri, the influential impressionist and founder of the Ashcan School of Art. His student Alice Canady later tutored Marlborough's Beverly Rinck privately for a decade on Staten Island and his words have been passed down and embraced by this local artist.

Now a city resident for many years, and an area teacher, Rinck was featured at a wine and cheese reception last month at The Meadows retirement community.

Her simple studies exude calm. Humble pots, a noble ladle, a porcelain vase - all are fair prospects for subject matter under the skilled hand of this still life specialist. Whether via pastels or oils, she captures these simple forms with her expert blends of browns, blues, creams and grays, and provides them with an air of dignity or intrigue that far surpasses their ordinary status.

"It's gotta look like something you want to touch," she explained enthusiastically. When she chooses to paint a colorful fruit, be it oranges or apples, the color pops from the frame and adds vibrancy to the canvas.

On the other hand, color is not what jumps out at a visitor to her tranquil apartment. The beautiful home that she shares with George, her husband of 60 years, is infused with the simplicity of brown Shaker décor and spartan white walls.

Their fourth-floor apartment at the not-for-profit New Horizons retirement community, overlooks a woodland of myriad browns and greens, and serves as the creative nest from which Rinck hatches her prolific works of art. More than 20 pieces were on display at 370 Hemenway Street, where residents have grown fond of seeing her tranquil pieces adorn the Breakfast Club and hallways there.

In her home, against a stark backdrop of white, Rinck adjusts and poses her objects, mindful of the lighting and lines involved in each display. A small table or living room nook equally serves her needs. As the subject may remain posed for weeks, however, she laughed, "I generally keep the kitchen off limits."

As a young girl growing up on Staten Island, Rinck admired the pastel works created by her aunt and whined to her parents until they granted her permission to begin art lessons, too. Her teacher, the same one who tutored her aunt, was "Mrs. Canady" to Rinck. "She is the touchstone that I relied upon. I hear her commenting even today when I paint," Rinck commented fondly. She continued lessons with Mrs Canady until the age of 17.

Working in New York City, Rinck married George at age 19 and resumed painting in the evenings when her husband, a Marine, went into the service. The love for the craft never left her and, to the delight of her in-laws with whom she then lived, the dining room table would be splayed frequently with her latest subjects, posed in just the exact way she wanted them.

When the two moved to a neighborhood flush with children, Rinck would offer lessons in the basement of their home. Some of those early pupils are still connected to her today.

Her current pupils include attendees of the "Assabet After Dark" educational series and participants in the painting class she leads at the Hudson Senior Center. In both cases, she has been careful not to influence the skills of those students by showing them her own finished work.

Part of the excitement for Rinck, with the wine and cheese reception, was that she revealed her own artistic talent to her students, all of whom she personally invited to attend.

Rinck's works are also on display at two local galleries: The Five Crows in Natick and Star Gallery in Stow. Rinck has also donated a painting to New Horizons that is on display in the lobby at 400 Hemenway Street to be raffled. Proceeds support the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metrowest. Raffle tickets are \$5 for the drawing to be held on September 12, 2010. For information or directions, call Adam Katz at 508 460-5200 or send an email to nhm@cummings.com.