

PHOTO BY LOUIS ST. LEWIS

Artist-at-Large

by Louis St. Lewis

TOP TEN ARTISTS EXHIBITED IN 2003

I have a voracious eye. I love to look...at EVERYTHING. It matters not if it is a diamond, a dead deer, or Michael Jackson being hauled off to jail; if it's out there, I'm going to look at it. I'm that person in the limousine in front of you, gawking at a car wreck. I'm the one who sat motionless in front of my television for days on end, my only sustenance a few slices of smoked salmon, from the moment Princess Diana was killed until her interment on that grassy mound at Althorp House.

Needless to say, I've seen a lot of art, both

slivers of salmon, the show was sold out! Everything was gone in those first two hours. Very Impressive. Jane has a confidence that radiates from the paintings and in the simply stunning Tyndall Gallery—how could she go wrong?

REVEREND M. ROBBINS LONG

The Cameron Museum of Art in Wilmington was the perfect backdrop for this ambitious display of wacky paintings based on the *Book of Revelation*. Never shown during his

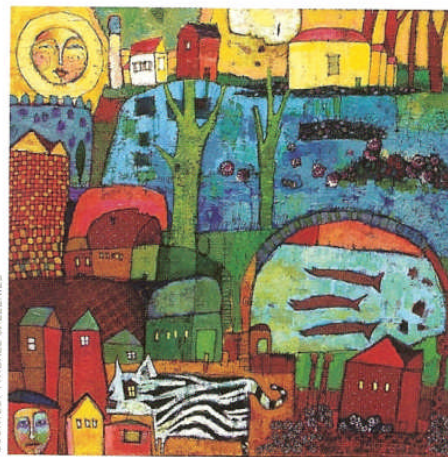
lifetime, these intense erotic and hypnotic paintings were an embarrassment to his landed-gentry family and simply stacked up in piles to await an uncertain future. The Cameron Museum showed them off in style, and it was good to see there have always been NC artists who bucked the system.

GEORGE BIRLINE

Shortly after Birline's death, the NC Museum of Art opened an exhibition in memory of Birline that ran until August 2003. And this summer Lee Hansley arranged a wonderful show of Birline's large-scale paintings in the lobby of the BTI Performing Arts Center in Raleigh. George was serious and committed through and through. There could be no better memorial to him than these thoughtful and well-organized exhibits that showed off the depth and breadth of his talents to perfection.

WAYNE TRAP

Wayne received double exposure from both Tyndall Gallery and Pinehurst's Judy Broadhurst Gallery. Wayne is one of the state's treasures. He lives life full throttle, and his paintings and sculpture are to be celebrated. Anyone who has sipped scotch in the back of Wayne's



COURTESY TYNDALL GALLERIES

Watervillet, Jane Flier, acrylic on canvas

burgundy Rolls Royce knows that this man has a sense of style that transcends the mundane. Why isn't he in the NC Museum of Art or the Cameron Museum after such a full life of creativity? Hint: art is politics, and don't let anyone tell you different.

DAVID SOLO

David transformed the main gallery of Raleigh's Artspace into his own quirky world of passing time, decay and remembrance. This artist is one of those few who seemingly have no enemies, and whose imagination is both fertile and entertaining. Part carpenter, part videographer, part image choreographer, David keeps the spectator salivating for more, more, more.

MIA YOON

Sometimes an artist can shout with a whisper, and that is what Mia Yoon does with her well-constructed and stylishly cool sculptures and paintings. Mia is a minimalist who gives maximum pleasure. I only wish that I had enough room in my own home for one of her beautiful and luminous creations. Raleigh's Bickett Gallery showed her off to perfection and should be congratulated for taking the stab at minimalism in a world of "maximalism."

KATHRYN DEMARCO

Ms. DeMarco is a collage artist par excel-



PHOTO BY ALEX HARRIS

Calle Sol and Cuba, Habana Vieja, Looking North from Alberto Rojas's 1951 Plymouth, May 23, 1998, Havana, Cuba, photograph by Alex Harris

good and bad this year. Some of the good is so very good that I become instantly enraptured and faint to the floor in a state of ecstasy. Some of the bad is so very bad it makes last night's sautéed quail race toward my tonsils, and I want nothing more than to gouge out my eyes so I never have to see such horrors again. I have strong opinions. That said, here, kind reader, are my observations on some of the best visual art offerings in our area during 2003.

JANE FLIER

Jane is scorching hot right now. I walked into her opening at Tyndall Gallery in Chapel Hill's University mall and by the time I sipped a few glasses of white burgundy and had a few