

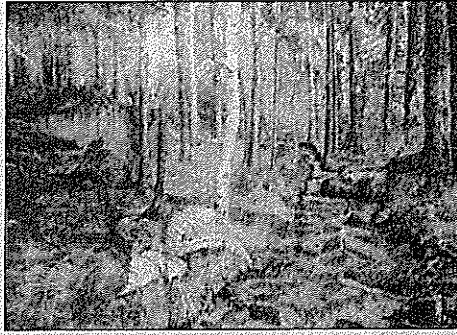
Lifetime of experience in her art

By Holly Reed

Marilyn Pet has been a member of the East Hartford Art League since 1998. "The experience of having one of my botanical drawings, "Protea Passe"; selected to win the 2004 East Hartford Purchase Award was one of the best experiences of my life," says Marilyn happily. This drawing hangs in the Raymond Library collection, along with approximately 40 other Purchase Awards.

All together, the town now has in its collection over 60 years of artwork as a direct result of the prestigious East Hartford Purchase Award, which is awarded each year during the annual Spring Art Fest in May, one winner per year. (This year's Art Fest will be held on Saturday May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Alumni Town Green near the E.H. Community Center.)

Born in northwestern Baltimore Maryland, Marilyn grew up in a household with a loving family that included not only twin siblings - a younger



brother and sister - but also the freedom to cultivate childhood interests. Modern dance lessons, artwork, painting lessons, music recitals, Marilyn's earliest memories include riding the Baltimore streetcar downtown with her school classmates to attend art lessons at one of the Baltimore museums. "It was my kindergarten teacher who first gave me a lesson on perspective," remembers Marilyn. "We were drawing Santa Claus, and I thought it was very neat to be able to calculate perspective using what she taught me!" Marilyn has been drawing and

painting ever since, sometimes several projects at the same time, depending on the medium involved.

Falling in love and deciding to marry during her sophomore year of college, Marilyn first attended Barnard College and then Goucher. She moved with her new husband and three

young children, Pacey, Asher and Russell, to Lexington Kentucky where she lived prior to re-locating to Connecticut in 1969. While raising her family, Marilyn continued her formal education, earning both a Masters and Law Degree from UCONN. Now that her family is all grown up, Marilyn runs a full-time business, is a member of the East Hartford Board of Education, and still finds time to take lessons in art and drawing as well as creating beautiful artwork for sale around the region. Over the past few years, Marilyn's artwork such as "East Hartford Cloud Cover", "Checkermum", "Glory of A Tree", and "Orchid Twist", have won many awards regionally for original design and use of color.

"My son Pacey is a doctor, and one of his hobbies is making hand-carved wooden pens. We put together several of my drawings and paintings with his hand-carved pens to become a two-person show, and have had good success selling our creations!" Marilyn explains, smiling at these memories. When you view Marilyn's botanical drawings, the realistic tone of each drawing and the beautifully executed perspective combine to create a very unique viewing experience. And is that not the point of fine art? Marilyn has completed a formal course of study on botanical drawing. A new technique picked up at a local adult education series, called "paper marbling", will soon show up in her art as well!

Her most recent drawing, "A Walk in the Woods", depicts a New England woodland which absolutely mesmerizes the viewer, inviting their eye to travel further and further into the woodland scene.