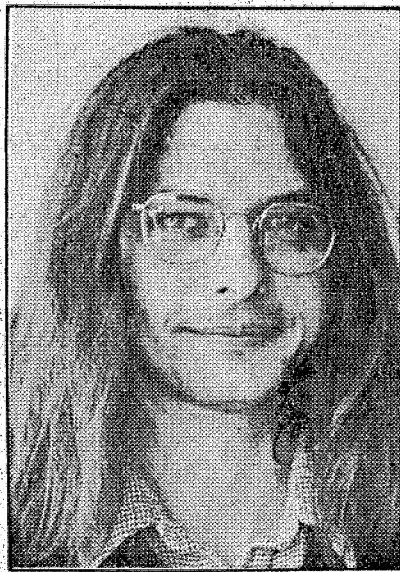


Following builds

Raleigh artist David Larson and one of his drawings. As in many of Larson's drawings, the woman has a vampirish look, with menacing teeth.



Jarring, disturbing and sometimes downright ghoulish, the drawings of Raleigh artist David Early Larson have earned a small but dedicated local audience.

The drawings, populated with an odd assortment of freaks, monsters, lissome nymphs and sinister-looking children, are drawn with a command of traditional draftsmanship that is rare in Raleigh and its environs. Larson knows well how to depict the supple flesh of a young woman, the wizened body of an old man, or the tortured posture of a creature summoned from the artist's subconscious.

Larson, who is 29, may not yet have the experience or stature for a major exhibition. But during the past year, he has demonstrated a steady level of achievement in group shows in Durham, Carrboro and Raleigh, including last year's Artsposure exhibition. His fans know they can always find a Larson drawing at the Paper Plant, a shop selling used books, art, handmade paper and handmade books at 129 S. Salisbury St. in Raleigh. The shop is owned by the poet and writer John Dancey-Jones.

At any one time, the Paper Plant has between 25 and 30 Larson drawings on display — enough to constitute a small, continuing exhibition of the artist's work.

The works include images of Victorian-era beauties with Gibson Girl coifs, madonnas in filmy gowns or vampirish women staring at the viewer with an unsettling, hollow-cheeked gaze. Also on view are depictions of weird, sci-fi scenarios in what looks like the proverbial mad scientist's laboratory, or small portraits that were ripped up and reassembled to look like visages in a shattered mirror.

The subject matter is repellent from time to time, but Larson's creations almost never fail to fascinate, even if the fascination has a somewhat morbid edge.

Larson, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree at East Carolina University in 1982, said over lunch on Wednesday that he wants to suggest extreme psychological states in his drawings. He's also interested in what he called "the paradox of normalcy," the problem of how society defines normal behavior.

Artistically, Larson said he has been inspired mostly by northern European artists, including Jan Van Eyck, Rogier Van Der Weyden, James Ensor, Egon Schiele and George Grosz. Yet, despite all the influences, Larson's work has a clearly personal look. For those interested in the younger genera-

Art



By Steven Litt

tion of artists in and around Raleigh, Larson's work is worth checking out.

The quietly exquisite abstract drawings and paintings of Charlotte artist Paul Harcharik suggest a meditative mental state without being bland or banal.

Harcharik, 38, a self-employed artist for the past three years, has for several years been painting sawhorses and chairs in a semi-abstract mode. The style has shown a similarity to the paintings of Richard Diebenkorn, the drawings of Brice Marden and the drawings and paintings of Jim Dine.

Until recently, the Dine parallel appeared to be the strongest. Harcharik shared Dine's predilection for making uncommon portraits of commonplace objects. In Dine's case, the focus was on clumps of paintbrushes, bits of hardware or bathrobes, while Harcharik used empty chairs and sawhorses as his vehicle for rhapsodic passages of painting or drawing. For both artists, the subject was less important than the way it was painted.

But in a new show of Harcharik's work, on view at Gilliam & Peden Gallery through April 30, the artist has abandoned the vestiges of concrete imagery that he used in his chair and sawhorse paintings. This is not to say that

TV remake set of '49 film hit

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Loni Anderson, Michele Lee and Stephanie Zimbalist will co-star in a two-hour TV remake of the old 20th Century-Fox movie hit, "A Letter To Three Wives," for next season.

The original 1949 film starred Jeanne Crain, Linda Darnell and Ann Sothern as three wives who receive a letter from a "friend" who has left town with one of their husbands.

All three leading ladies this time around are TV series veterans — Anderson in "WKRP in Cincinnati," Lee in "Knots Landing" and Zimbalist in "Remington Steele."

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