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City Center Site Of Unique Exhibit

By Mame Ramey

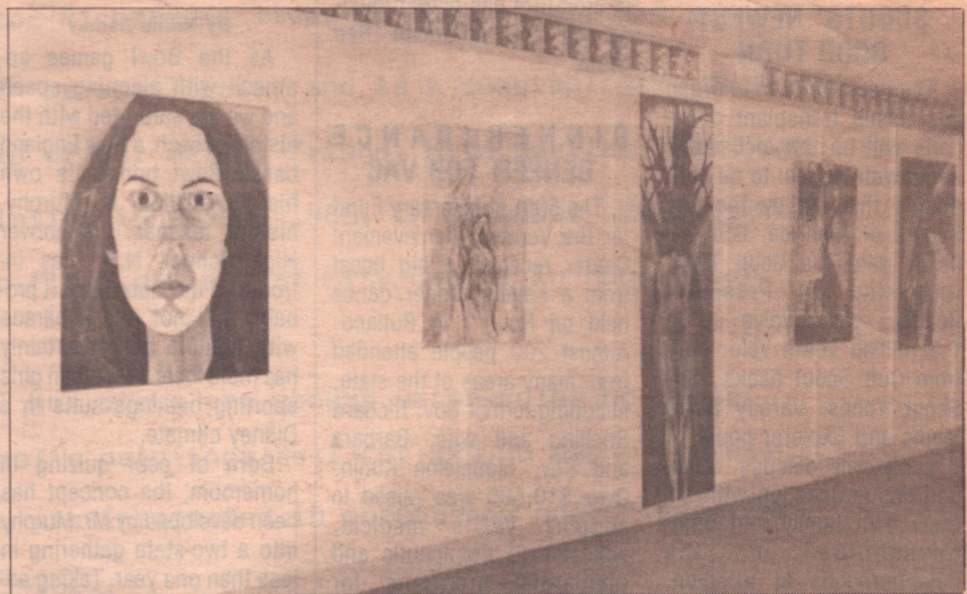
For the month of November the City Center in Montpelier is offering a two-woman show on the second floor of its interesting mall. Most of the paintings — full of color, motion and emotion — are offered for sale.

Carol Richardson is a left-handed artist who works with opaque water colors on paper. Her work flows and swirls and relays an ease of movement. It is not an ease of movement for Richardson to create these pieces — she must work through an uncooperative body. Cerebral Palsy has restricted her motor control, stolen her speech and limited her independence. It has not hindered her spirit as her art reveals. Her 19 works are full of motion, mood and freedom.

Instigator and now partner in the exhibit, is Kate Mueller who entered Richardson's life in January as a weekend attendant. Mueller, an exhibited artist herself, began to share her love of expression through painting with Richardson in March. By spring, the two were plotting a show.

The original concept was to gather and show art created by handicapped artists. However, Mueller found there was little work created, let alone available. Rather than abandon or postpone the project the women decided to show their works together. It was a wise decision.

Mueller feverishly persuaded funding and found support in the Onion River Arts Council. From there, quite a list of sponsors were established:



Mame Ramey photo.

Cerebral Palsy of Vermont, The Drawing Board, After Image, State Street Market and a partial grant pending from the Vermont Council of the Arts.

Mueller says it was worth the work. "In sending invitations, I sent to a real mix — workers, the art world, everyone. Hopefully, the show will heighten community awareness of the capabilities of the handicapped. I would like to do a similar project in the future with more people for a broader base. I have gotten a great deal out of the whole process of the show. It has been really good for me." Perhaps more-so than she realizes.

Kate Mueller is a talented artist of great detail. Her 17 oil paintings reveal much inner searching and sorting and solving. There is agony and peace, entanglement and freedom, re-birth and death, reflecting great variety from piece to piece, all with the very

strong common thread of her gender. Catty-corner are Richardson's pure works which seem to be the original color thoughts expounded upon in Mueller's works. The transition from one artist to the other is left to the viewer

and is a gentle one to make. The visual extremes are easily understandable and a great complement to one another. The exhibit is appealing to the eye as well as to the mind. Well done, indeed.