__ Up front_

LOCAL ART ENCLAVES FINDAYOUNGAUDIENCE

By CHRIS CAIN

As you walk into the beige- work, keeping the accounts." you will see it, glossy and conspic- about 200 works of art last year - more serious buyer. uous, lying there on one of the brown endtables — a copy of the gallery's as much as \$1200 or as little as \$25

Expanding horizons in a variety of directions is what ArtSchool in

has made it big in America — not paintings hanging quietly in estates beginning to recognize that talent. fully. "It gives them a chance to work and show. It's definitely a needed of the wealthy, but the art of car this area . . . this area has been more thing." grilles and billboards and Campbell's literary and not as visually oriented. Soup. Yet amid this assault of the assembly line, hidden discreetly in the catching up to the idea that there all contributing to the theme "Conold-fashioned, original art is shown have come to realize the merit and and debris left in the wake of recent and sold. In fact, with about 10 beauty of another house-turned-art construction. Calhoon, who now commercial galleries around town. gallery, according to Libby Daniels, volunteers her services to ArtSchool, art in Chapel Hill has become quite manager of the Horace Williams worked for 20 years at Ackland Art

in places like a warm wooden house will wander in . . . we have several But she believes that now there are on Cameron Avenue, a couple of honorary dog members of the pres- more than ever, including ArtSchool's blocks from campus. It's sold not by ervation society," she notes some- own "Outreach Galleries," five small high-powered dealers, but by people what wistfully. The stately house, shows in places of business such as like Libba Beerman, an energetic dating from the early 1800s, is in Hotel Europa and Landlubber's Seawoman who has loved art for many effect loaned by the University to the food Restaurant. The increase in the decades, and who has seen changes N.C. Preservation Society, which has number of commercial galleries over the years. "It's a less elitist form in turn renovated it and now holds indicates more sales and more folks nowadays," she notes. Indeed, art art showings year round. rack at Schoolkids' Records.

ing after painting in what was, three Those who ramble in may take a look House abstract art often has a years ago, a dining room, a den and at what she terms "a grab bag of difficult time. "In this place realism an upstairs bedroom — but what is exhibits," all of which are for sale by sells better," she says. She notes the now a place of business. That con- the artists. At the end of the show success of a local artist and exversion has been by no means a each artist must donate to the house professor. Ernest Craig, who paints simple task. On the one hand one 20 percent of his proceeds, which from photographs he's taken all over must choose which artists to exhibit: goes toward further improvements the world and who sold nearly his "The telltale sign for a real artist is to the place. that he can't help from creating." Due to its dollar-a-year rent, the

It's a business that's tucked away "Sometimes the neighborhood dogs" galleries come and go over the years.

business: "As romantic as it is to live would be with a regular commercial want to bring that mountain into

with this art, there's an amazing gallery," Daniels said. "It's a chance amount of busi-ness — doing PR for them to expand their horizons." And, she hopes, a chance for members everything-except-the-endtables Her efforts are not going unre- of the community to expand theirs, Linden Art Gallery in Kroger Plaza, warded, however. Beerman sold whether the casual walk-in or the

very own bimonthly magazine, for each. Those, she says, are strictly Carrboro is all about. The art gallery "Exhibit," Take a flip through and Chapel Hill prices: "In New York it's sits squarely in the middle of a newly you'll find that the longest (and a joke. This is the place to buy art acquired site, surrounded by a variety ioudest) article isn't on Van Gogh or Wyeth, but rather Coca-Cola, Slick- regions." She gestures to painting The clean, sharp, modern lines of this O hair tonic and Nitrates Agencies
Genuine Peruvian Guano — the ohHill, Chapel Hill." She pauses, then
air than that of the houses. It is also so-chic area that comprises adds, "We've got a lot of talent in a more public, visible place. Wanda It's this mass-produced art that And the town, she says, is slowly the ArtSchool chooses artists care-

> The current exhibit brings together House on East Rosemary Street. Museum and has seen little art in the area willing to buy.

dealers in the area stress that they High wooden ceilings, lots of space So what kind of art will provoke sell not to the fabulously well-to-do, and lots of natural light lend the feel normally normal people in this area but primarily to younger, less wealthy of a gallery to the house. Yet as to fork over big money for big pieces clients. It seems there is art to be Daniels strolls from room to room, of paper and little lumps of clay? found somewhere between New she points out that it was a home According to Calhoon, ArtSchool's York's Guggenheim and the poster for more than a century. "The nice last show, which comprised paintings thing about this place is its informal- from the Watercolor Society, sold The walls of Beerman's home on ity. I literally have people jogging by. very well — nine paintings went in

Beerman agrees that the demand Beerman says. "I'm an artist, but I'm Preservation Society can afford to is for realism. "People like to have not driven to paint or sculpt. I always take the occasional risk on an artist. pictures of their surroundings," she thought I had to wash the dishes." "We encourage people to be more says. "It's crazy, but people want to On the other hand, one must run a experimental and creative than they bring their environment inside. They

Calhoon, the gallery's director, says

nooks and crannies of Chapel Hill in places like the Linden Gallery, good old-fashioned original art is shown bave come to realize the mosit and the most and contributing to the theme Construction Works," which appropriately was delayed due to the dust "We have a wide variety of style points of the miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle best expressed, struction Works, waxing philosophical, she goes on: waxing philosophical art is shown between the control of the life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there. "Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's there." Apologizing for finds that miracle of life. She sure it's the sure it's the

20th centuries. art of French artists they'd met. She for poster art." doesn't find it strange that art of such Judging from the number of local Carneron Street are graced by paint- and they'll jog in and then jog out." all. Daniels says that in the Williams a specific nature sold well — even- galleries, it seems that poster art

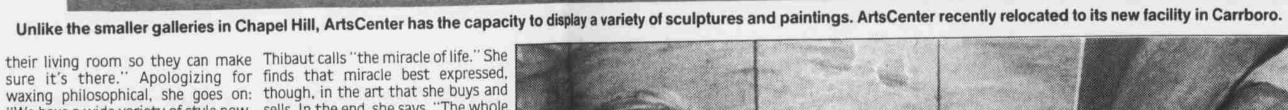
fixed order. All are a part of what a lively business.

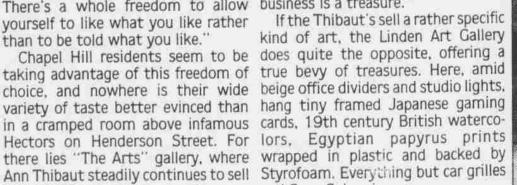
There's a whole freedom to allow business is a treasure."

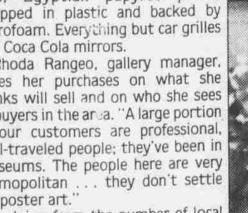
than to be told what you like." kind of art, the Linden Art Gallery Chapel Hill residents seem to be does quite the opposite, offering a taking advantage of this freedom of true bevy of treasures. Here, amid choice, and nowhere is their wide beige office dividers and studio lights. variety of taste better evinced than hang tiny framed Japanese gaming in a cramped room above infamous cards, 19th century British waterco-Hectors on Henderson Street. For lors, Egyptian papyrus prints there lies "The Arts" gallery, where wrapped in plastic and backed by Ann Thibaut steadily continues to sell Styrofoam. Everything but car grilles the specific art she loves best — and Coca Cola mirrors.

French engravings of the 19th and Rhoda Rangeo, gallery manager, bases her purchases on what she Twenty years ago she and her thinks will sell and on who she sees husband took a long trip to Paris, as buyers in the area. "A large portion where, she says, "We just sort of went of our customers are professional, cuckoo — my eyes just popped out well-traveled people; they've been in of my head." As a result of such museums. The people here are very cuckoodom, they started selling the cosmopolitan . . . they don't settle

tually selling enough to start a doesn't strike the same cord as gallery. Her buyers, however, con- original art for many in the area. tinue to surprise her: "This is a very Certainly for the likes of Ann Thibaut, unusual place in that it's not the well- there is no substitute for the real to-do that buy from me." Rather, she thing: "I feel very deeply a part of says, it's a younger market that she a human tradition." After all, she attracts. "When people get to my age asks, "What lasts when human you've got your living room fixed." civilizations crumble?" Her answer A voice comes from beyond the can be found in the great art galleries door. "Hello, is there an art gallery of the world. Yet while this civilizaup here?" someone asks. "It's small," tion stands, art remains far more than she replies. Plants, ceramics, books a museum relic. In civilized houses and lithographs are scattered about and galleries in and around Chapel the well-lit room, apparently in no Hill, it remains, quietly but steadily.

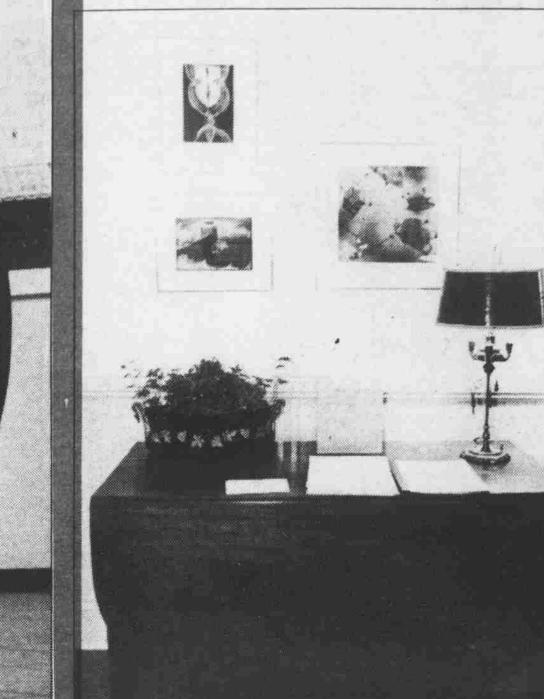








Libba Beerman, the fine arts broker for the 305 W. Cameron Avenue Art Gallery, shows a painting by Walter Piepke



Antiques add to the relaxed atmosphere of the Horace Williams House