

Three women, three views on art

What: “Three Women: *Color, Wit and Imagination*. The Art of Chris Erskine, Lisa Owen and Molly Warren-Haycock”

Where: Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

When: Exhibit runs Jan. 8-Feb. 24. Members-only reception with the artists from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, with public reception from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15.

Cost: Free but donations gratefully accepted.

For more information: Call (989) 837-1885 or visit www.becreative360.org

Midland -- Two of them have never met. They live in neighboring cities. And their ages range from 30+ to 59.

Works of Chris Erskine and Molly Warren-Haycock of Midland and Lisa Owen of Bay City comprise the Creative 360 exhibition “Three Women: *Color, Wit and Imagination*” running Jan. 8 through Feb. 24. Says Erskine of the show, “I think that all three of us may have a common thread regarding our work -- a little bit out of the box.”

And, they concur, a common sense of humor.

Erskine, 59, is known for her shrine assemblages, using old religious and pop images framed in objects like cigar boxes and lozenge tins. “I used this show to experiment a little. My painting seems never seems to be the same twice.”

Owen, mum on her age, uses unorthodox colors to capture an array of moods and images in portraits of women on hand-painted ceramic tiles and acrylic on watercolor paper. “I have always enjoyed painting the face, the eyes, the lips and expressions. I also like to paint in bright colors. Perhaps that comes from my Mexican heritage.”

And Warren-Haycock, 38, often paints both the front and back of the canvas “because there is more than one side to every story. I don't see hanging my work as a challenge -- pick one side and hang it, and when you get tired of that side flip it over. No reason to think it over.”

Warren-Haycock and Owen met while taking a pottery class, and for the past three years have painted together. Erskine and Warren-Haycock met by happenstance while each was shopping at an art supply store and, says Erskine, “Molly had me laughing in the aisle. I had to get to know her better.”

This is their first show together “and my first show ever,” says Erskine. “It is definitely less scary with the two other women. I have never met Lisa and am not familiar with her work except I know she likes color, which makes me a fan already. I adore Molly’s work. She is edgy and always has something to say.”

Each woman will have at least 20 pieces in the show, most of which are for sale.

“I am excited about the way our work meshes together,” says Warren-Haycock.

Adds Erskine, “I hope people will observe with this show that it is OK if the brushstrokes do not conform to what classes may teach is acceptable or the correct way, or that a nose is crooked and the hands too large.”

“Three Women” is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A members-only reception with the artist will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, with a public reception from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15. Admission is free, with donations accepted.

Creative 360, formerly Creative Spirit Center, is located at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

About Creative 360

Creative 360, formerly known as Creative Spirit Center, is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994. The Center’s mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, art exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Visit www.becreative360.org for more information about the offerings at Creative 360, or call (989) 837-1885 to request a mailed copy.

Creative 360 1517 Bayliss Street Midland, MI 48640 (989) 837-1885
fax: (989) 837-1817 www.becreative360.org

#####