

Entertainment

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2002



Capturing the moment

Scranton artist Trinka Ravaoli Pettinato sees art in everyday scenes, and does her best to bring those images to life.

BY KRISTIN WINTERMANTEL / STAFF WRITER

Many artists have probably been asked the question at some point in their careers: So what made you want to be an artist?

For Trinka Ravaoli Pettinato, it was her little sister.

The Scranton artist discovered her destiny in middle school, when her younger sister, Maggie, was taking art lessons from local instructor Carol Galdieri.

"I saw her doing it, and I thought it was something I'd like to do," Mrs. Pettinato said, guessing she was about 10 or 11 at the time.

From then on, she soaked up all the expertise she could from art teachers in middle school, high school and then Keystone College and Connecticut State University.

Now running her own graphic-design business (called Grapevine Design) and doing oil paintings in her free time, Mrs. Pettinato will be the featured artist at the next installment of the Everhart Museum's "Party in the Park" happy hour series.

"This is a great opportunity," she said. "And it's nice that you get a different audience."

"Party in the Park" takes place Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$15, and patrons must be 21, because beer and wine will be served.

Mrs. Pettinato spoke recently about some of the works she will display at the event. The one that will be most recognizable to guests is "Hotel Casey," a 50-by-78 inch oil painting done on canvas. It depicts part of the neon sign and red brick exterior and fire escape of the former hotel, which was demolished last year as part of a hotel and conference center construction project.

She was inspired to do a painting of the dilapidated hotel building in 1997 when she worked at the Afa Gallery, across the street from the Casey on Lackawanna Avenue. "Coming out of work everyday, I'd see it there, in disarray," she said.

The painting was her entry for a juried exhibition at Keystone. Mrs. Pettinato paired it with a poem titled "Debris on Brío." It deals with the beauty and character of things in decay, she said.

Another painting she'll exhibit at "Party in the Park" is an oil painting of a man walking along a train



BOB MARCI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Trinka Ravaoli Pettinato will display her artwork at the Everhart Museum on Friday at 5:30. Paintings shown at top are (from left) "Forest Hill," "Hotel Casey" and "South Beach Window." Mrs. Pettinato is shown holding "Keyser Avenue."

trestle over Keyser Avenue.

"Usually I'll just pass by something, and I'll want to make (the scene) permanent," she said. So she'll do a painting of it.

That is what happened on Keyser Avenue.

"I was driving by and I saw that old man walking along, and I wanted to preserve that image," she explained.

Other works in the Everhart exhibit will include a portrait of Mrs. Pettinato's sister and brother-in-law sitting out on the dock of their Baltimore home, and a painting of a tavern that a friend's family owned.

Mrs. Pettinato works primarily in oils.

"I like the versatility — it takes a while for oils to dry, so you can go

If you go

What: "Party in the Park," a happy hour and exhibition featuring the paintings of Trinka Ravaoli Pettinato

When: Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Where: The Everhart Museum in Nay Aug Park

Details: Admission is \$15, must be 21 to enter. Beer, wine, soda, cosmopolitans and food available. Proceeds benefit the museum.

back and change things if you want to," she said. "And the colors are richer and fuller."

Upcoming Parties in the Park — featuring more local artists — are set for July 12, Aug. 2 and Sept. 13.