

Local artist gets international recognition

By Marianne Dila-Strickland

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Sanibel-Captiva Art League member, Pat Cleveland, recently won the honor of having her work featured in an up-coming issue of ARTIS SPECTRUM magazine. Cleveland submitted photographs of four paintings which were selected, along with those of artists from all over the world, to be featured in the magazine and on the world-wide web.

Currently Cleveland's work is on exhibit at Lee County Alliance of the Arts in Fort Myers where her remarkable vision can be appreciated in still life and landscape.

Two of the paintings on display, "Garlic Bulb" and "The Tundra" were among the paintings selected for international recognition with fellow artists from New Zealand, Denmark, Hong Kong, Italy, and Mexico in ARTIS SPECTRUM's Talent Art Competition-1996.

Cleveland's work which always arrests my attention and draws me in for a meticulous look, is her blow-ups of familiar flowers and vegetables. The salad painting, "Your Choice of Dressing" which made me her fan when I first saw it at Sanibel Public Library, has not sold yet and deserves a good home.

"Garlic Bulb" with open head revealing giant

cloves and their crisp paper skin against velvety dark ground; "Looking Inside," a huge golden bell pepper cut and revealing veins and seeds; "Green Melody," a stalk of celery that looks like a tropical jungle; "Mushroom Blues," a mushroom bigger than my head, sliced to reveal its heart, pungent fungus aroma lingering; and "Berry Delicious," huge fresh strawberries, one cut down the middle revealing its red Valentine interior and releasing its sweet perfume. Feast on these no-calorie delights.

Giant florals, intensely colored, include a Cattylea orchid, red tulips, iris, angel trumpets, and hibiscus.

Landscapes that make you want to float right over them, show vivid purple-blue mountains, red tundra and rock outcroppings, and the patchy green scrub that manages to thrive above the tree-line in the Colorado Rockies. Half of Cleveland's paintings are these majestic views where a soul might meditate in complete solitude.

Cleveland's paintings are recognizable immediately as coming from the brush of one of the area's prominent artists. As one viewer put it, "She does for garlic what L'Keefe did for poppy."

The exhibit remains at Lee County Alliance of the Arts in Fort Myers through Jan. 31.



Sanibel-Captiva Art League member, Pat Cleveland, is now exhibiting at the Lee County Alliance of the Arts in Fort Myers through Jan. 31. Above, is her piece entitled "Chiquita."