

Artist uses acrylics to explore abstract thought

By MEGAN VEIT
Staff Writer

Known nationally for her watercolor school houses and still life prints, local artist Marge Brandt reinvents herself in a transition from "lace to space," one of her friends in describing Brandt's style.

Having started her career as an artist in 1968 with acrylic works, Brandt is best known for her award winning water colors. Now she has "left [her] box," as she describes it, and uses various techniques to create abstract art on show in venues both in the surrounding area and Florida.

Being permitted to show art in many of the events is an honor in itself, Brandt said, as a large number of events are judged prior to showing.

"Only some of the paintings [submitted] are shown," Brandt said.

Brandt begins her abstracts by pouring the liquid acrylics on the canvas in numerous layers.

Each layer dries and is revisited until an image emerges. To enhance this image, Brandt implements techniques such as blowing through straws to disperse the paint in capricious patterns and stamping with plastic wrap to create unique textures.

Brandt, who said she is often inspired by her Christian faith, talked about one of her prints being shown in Van Wert called "Up and Adam." The painting is so named for the appearance of a man's silhouette from the earth-toned foundation of the painting.

This Christian theme is carried over into the cross Brandt hides in each of her paintings, one of the final steps before signing her name to the lower right-hand corner.

"For many of the paintings, God gives the name to me," Brandt said.

Her acrylic collection includes realistic prints, including "The Spinster," a print depicting an unmarried woman and her cat.

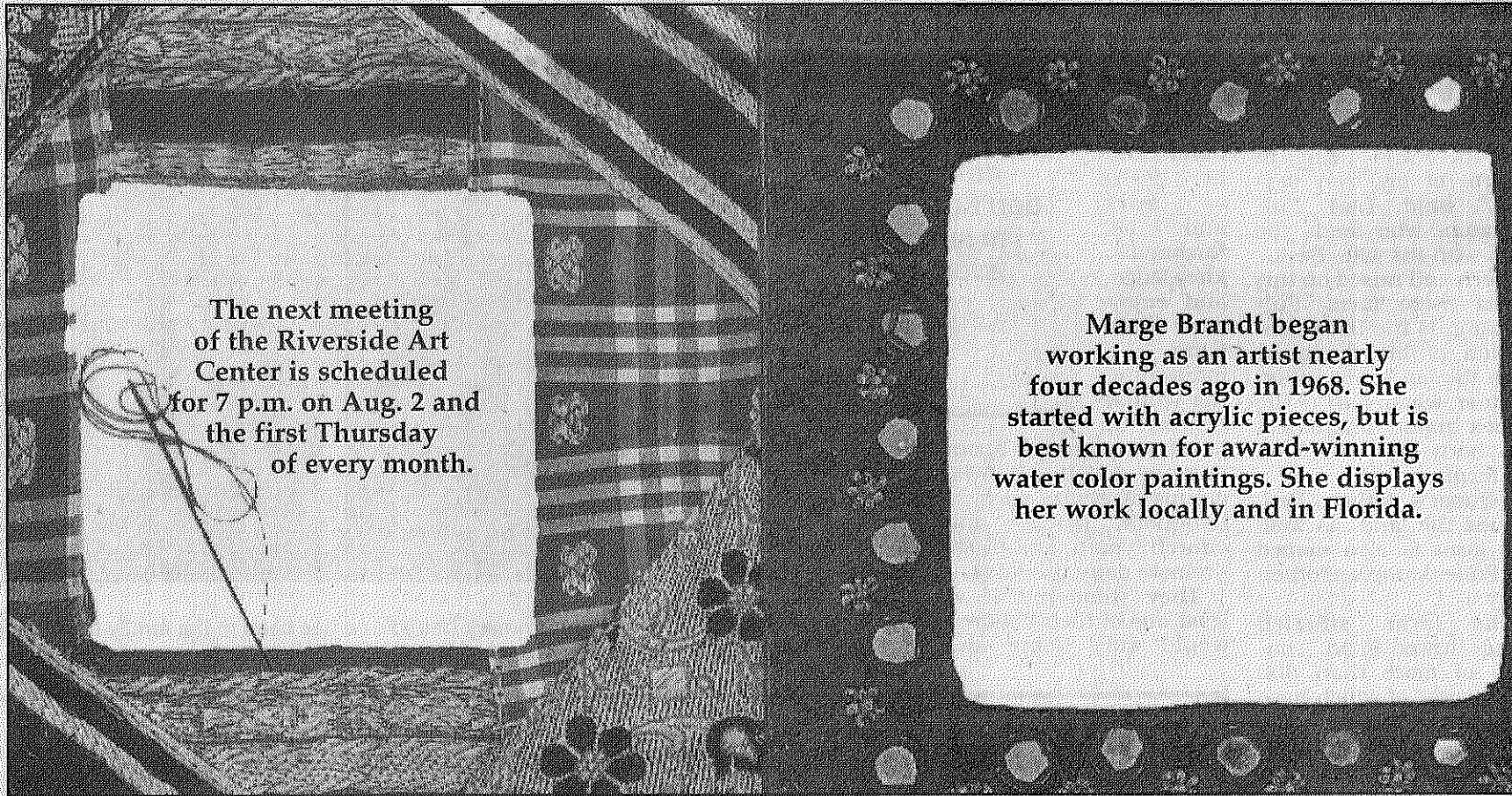
For such works, Brandt often begins by covering the canvas with a base color, which she explains pulls the painting together.

Her more abstract works have been described as celestial — one such work entitled "The Fourth Day" was



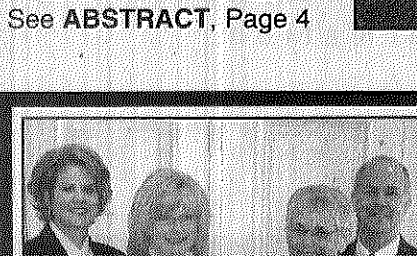
Marge Brandt works on a new painting at the Riverside Art Center on Monday morning with Rodney Bensman of Minster, shown below right.

Staff photos/ Kristin Reichardt



The next meeting of the Riverside Art Center is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Aug. 2 and the first Thursday of every month.

Marge Brandt began working as an artist nearly four decades ago in 1968. She started with acrylic pieces, but is best known for award-winning water color paintings. She displays her work locally and in Florida.



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