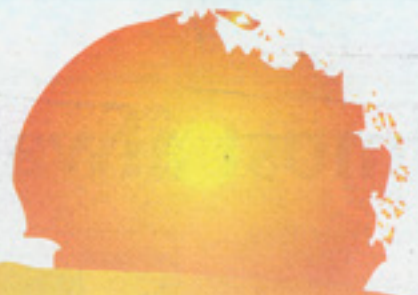


# SUMMER

Scene



Wednesday, August 23, 2006

Section II • 8 pages

## From afar students come to learn from the master



By KRISTIN HOLLENBECK  
SUMMER SCENE EDITOR

FRANKFORT — "Roland Roycraft is master," said Stefanie Vallee, a watercolor artist herself who has come for her fourth year in a row to study under Roycraft at Crystal Lake Art Center in Frankfort.

Entering the classroom on the second day of the week long class, all students, individually instructed at their own level of expertise, were intensely following the procedure for their teacher's style of controlling light and color with indirect painting by this local yet internationally known watercolor artist and teacher.

They were each at different levels of "the masking process," what Roycraft considers to be the most important step after penciling in the composition, one they had chosen to copy from a smaller picture lying carefully next to their own.

Masking is covering the paper, (Archer, a good rag paper because it is tough enough to take Maskoid and the lifting of color plus knife-work) in areas where no color is wanted yet.

Then they "wash" or "pour" the areas with color which is comparative to creating a photograph negative.

And the process continues with strokes of the brush for dom-

inance and the masking, pouring and washing plus so much more than could ever be observed in the short time I was there.

They were a very serious group, though comfortable and quick to laugh during the interview of their seasoned instructor with 35 years of guiding others to improve their own creations based on the miracle of water, color and paper.

Why did you choose watercolor?

"I didn't choose anything. It just came to me. It fit my personality best. Watercolors are free-

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Photos by Kristin Hollenbeck

**BEST IN SHOW** - Roycraft received this prestigious award on July 1, 2005 among 72 artists that exhibited at the T. Walter Hardy Exhibit Hall in Ramsdell Theatre, Manistee's first ever Manistee Art Institute Juried Art Show.



**INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION** - Roycraft critiques the progress of each student according to the level of expertise in order to capture the scene at its supreme moment by emphasizing the atmospheric effects of nature.



**FOUR YEAR VETERAN** - Stefanie Vallee receives her final critique on the last day of class. Roycraft gave her what another student called the only compliment he had heard yet, "Okay."



**2006 STUDENTS** - (from left) Standing - Jehan Kavooosi (IL), far rear, Kris Killman (IL), Christine Lally (Sterling Heights) Kathy Bonneau (East Lansing) Stefanie Vallee (Quebec, Canada) Bonnie Clement (MT) Delores Berta (Interlochen) Lynn Frost (OR) Carolyn Harmon (Frankfort). Seated - Loey Soderstrom - third year (Bloomington) Roycraft, Mary Reo (Eastpointe)



**88 YEARS YOUNG** - Roycraft has lived in Benzie County for 32 years painting and teaching his art.

The Benzie County

**RECORD PATRIOT**

A Weekly Guide To Dining, Activities  
And Recreation In The Area

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