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ART

AS220 exhibit showcases Cathy Hamilton

One of the goals of AS220, the feisty art and performance center in downtown Providence, is to provide an "unjuried" showcase for local artists. In other words, they just hang the stuff. It's up to us to decide whether it's any good.

Yet even if the folks at AS220 decided to exercise a little more quality control (something I, for one, wish they'd do), chances are the work of Providence artist Cathy Hamilton would still make the cut. As an exhibit of recent paintings (mostly landscapes) and drawings (mostly nude figure studies) in AS220's downstairs cafe demonstrates, Hamilton is a highly talented artist with a keen eye for her and our — surroundings.

Most of the paintings, for example, find Hamilton exploring the Rhode Island coast while experimenting with different effects of light and atmosphere. In *Tiverton I*, late afternoon sun spills through a gap in an old stone wall.

In *Barrington II*, a row of bare trees is outlined against a misty gray sky.

Other paintings feature lush, sun-raked views of the Providence skyline and the Narragansett Electric plant at Fields Point.

My only complaint is that while many of these works are beautifully painted, they still feel a little tentative — as though Hamilton is still searching for a style she can call her own.

ART WRAPUP

Bill
Van Siclen

Maybe her city scenes, which are generally more interesting and tightly composed than her landscapes, point the way to the future.

In its upstairs gallery, AS220 is showing the work of two other artists.

Shawn Wallace is represented by a series of playfully non-linear posters advertising *We the Poor*, *You the Rich*, *Pepe the Bull*, a musical comedy he wrote for Perishable Theatre.

Jill Colman, meanwhile, makes funky little mixed media sculptures using a quirky assortment of materials such as "wood, bug, glitter, paper, electricity" and "magnifying thing, paper, wood, linoleum, electricity."

Through Saturday at AS220, 115 Empire St. Hours are Tues.-Fri. 11-4 and Sat. 1-4.