

Tine Graham's explosive paintings at The Show

By RACHEL MULLEN
ART CRITIC

Just one look at Tine Graham's signature on her large acrylic paintings at the Show Restaurant in Chatham is indicative of the up-beat mood in her paintings. "Tine" is written with a broad brush stroke in bold red paint, sometimes appearing on the bottom of her paintings, sometimes in the middle. There is nothing shy about this Morristown artist.

Her combinations of bright color tones and addition of playful materials and sparkles are joyful. Many of her works were inspired by seascapes at Bay Head and Nantucket Island, Cape Cod.

A large mixed media acrylic painting on the left wall as one enters the restaurant entitled "Red Sandals" is typical of her arbitrary use of color and fun-loving style. In this work, several pairs of sandals, red, yellow and green, lie on the purple deck overlooking the beach.

The path to the beach is depicted in a bright yellow paint mixed with sand to add texture, while patches of brilliant green grass, articulated with wavy blue lines, border the path. In the distance, striped cabanas dot the beach, and decorative sails bob across the water against a multi-colored sky of lavender, pale blue and aqua.

The painting is enhanced by the striped materials and sparkly cloth applied to the canvas to depict the beach towels hanging over the deck railing.

"I use a lot of collage in my paintings," said Graham. "I like cutting out shapes that are different."

At an exhibition of her work, "Color My House...", held at the Anchor & Palette Gallery in Bay Head last August, Graham painted house portraits of people's homes.

"These were not your traditional portraits of cute little white cottages," she said. "People brought photos of their homes and sometimes they ended up purple, pink or turquoise. I was very accommodating."

Graham is also concerned with portraying movement in her works, painting people in different positions, whether a nude lying down on a chaise longue, or a glimpse at only the legs of a group of women playing golf.

Her comical painting, "I'm

Your Angel," of a nude lying on a couch is done with tongue in cheek.

The lady portrayed is obviously far from an angel. Her body painted in tones of lavender with green stripes has a shape like one of those giant balloons in the Thanksgiving Macy's parade, while her hair is a bright orange and lips, bright red.

Graham started painting about 10 years ago, doing traditional children's portraits in pastel. In a life drawing class at the Summit Art Center, her style changed. "One of the nude female models was seated in an elegant chair and was wearing red, high heels, and a broad-brimmed hat. Two props were placed on either side of her, a skeleton and a bicycle. The scene was so completely ridiculous that my imagination went wild," said Graham. "My

paintings became looser, my colors more adventuresome.'

Her colors remind one of the early 20th century group of French painters called "the Fauves" ("wild beasts"), shocking in their brilliance with an exotic touch.

The spontaneity of her linear patterns, the rich surface textures and clashing primary colors make for lively works of art.

This exhibit will remain at The Show Restaurant through Friday, Oct. 18.

While there, be sure to sample some of the delicious offerings in this classic French bistro and remember to bring your own bottle of wine.

The Show is located at 9 North Passaic Avenue, on the corner of Route 24 and Passaic Avenue in Chatham. For more information, call (973) 701-7377.