

# Arts & Entertainment

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THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART'S

## MOOD INDIGO

Toledo Area Artists show offers plenty of darkness

REBEKAH SCOTT  
DE STAFF WRITER

THE Toledo Area Artists exhibit comes early this year to Toledo Museum of Art, with a March opening scarcely nine months after its July, 1999, day.

And the Canaday Gallery, the heart of the museum, is full of darkness.

Abundant portraits show brooding, tight-lipped men and children, startling, sh-eyed eyes of high or red women. Photos are reeppy irareds and body landscapes of trees and eggs. Even watercolors, so often

bastion of sweetness and light, are painted dark: *Monica's Challenge*, Lori Langenhop's painterly still life of glass, water, and reflections, performs against a black background. Marisa Lije's watercolor *Stairwell* downright fatal.

Maybe it's just the midwinter blues (and blacks, and grays), or maybe the judges just lean toward the dark end of the spectrum. Or perhaps the artists of northwestern

Ohio and southeast Michigan labor under a collective case of melancholia.

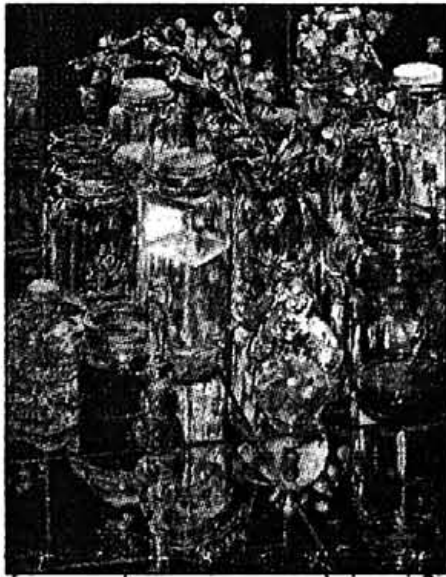
But even if the visual themes are tragic or nostalgic, there's plenty of wonderful art, with an extra dollop of representational and realistic works to please the crowd. Inveterate art show-goers will recognize several of

these works and artists from TAA or other competitions past — when you're good (or you have the judges' number), you stay good.

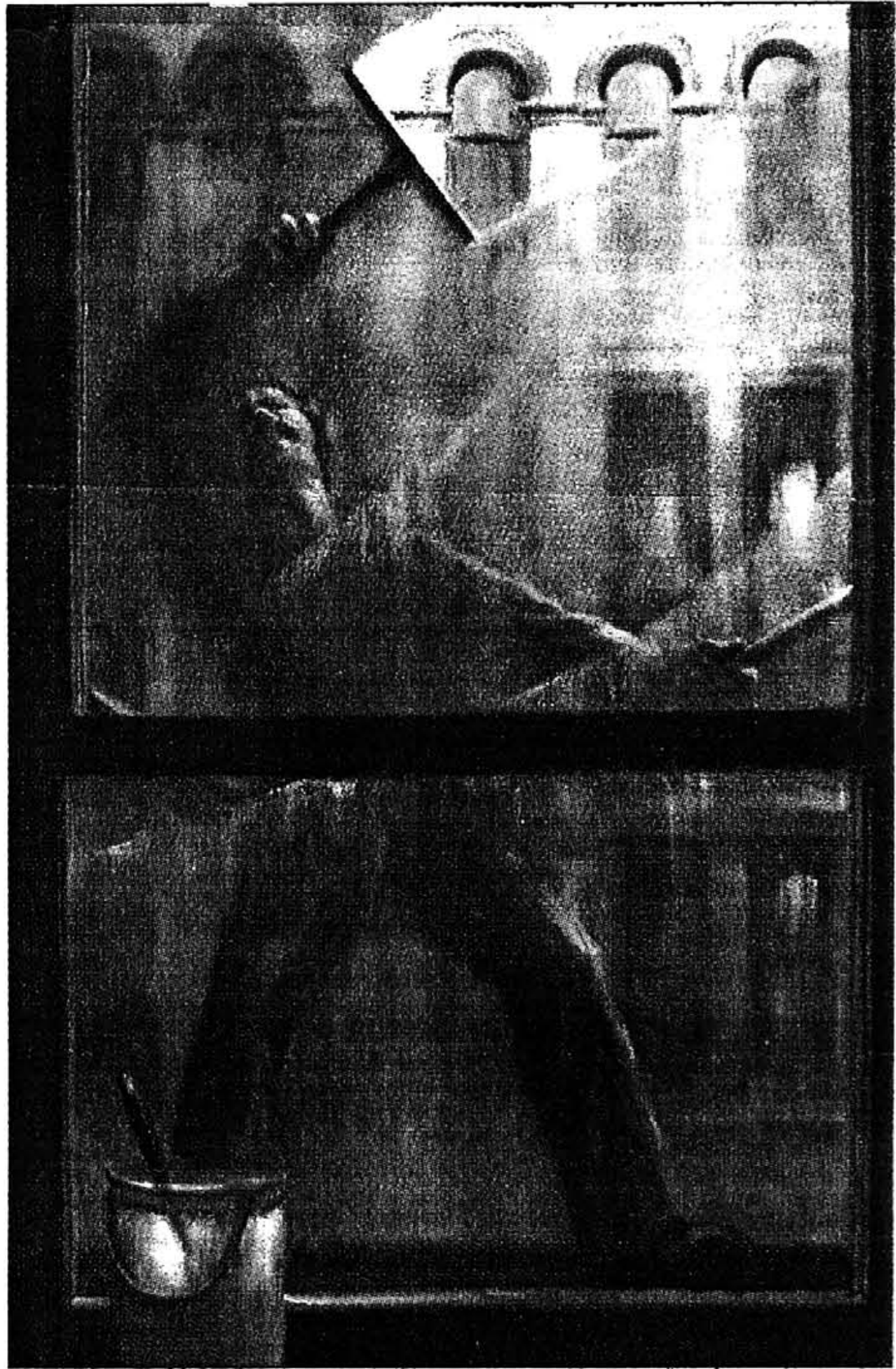
Here's another silk dress portrait by Gabrielle Mayer, this year pink-on-pink. Thom Frushour and Lana Pendleton

Hall are back with their big skies and sunlit landscapes. New York painter Stephen Kuzma returns with a skilled self-portrait and *Window Washer*, a pleasing combination architecture-and-figure study. And Bowling Green artist Janet Ballweg weighs in with *Glowing Ember*, a smaller, more intimate take on her familiar, dark, domestic scenes.

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*Monica's Challenge*, a still life of glass, by Lori Langenhop of Napoleon.



BLADE PHOTOS BY LISA DUTT

Above: *Window Washer #1*, a skilled self-portrait by New York artist Stephen Kuzma. Left: *Migration Series #III*, by Emanuel Enriquez of Bowling Green.