



Debra A. Krakow, a Wolfe Island painter, stands in her family's barn behind one of her watercolors. Her works can be seen at Breakwater Gallery, Cape Vincent.

MICHAEL FAGANS • WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

New Look

Artist-Architect Tries for Fresh Perspective on Everyday Scenes on River

By M.B. Pell
Times Staff Writer

CAPE VINCENT — With scenes of turkeys and naked women, Debra Krakow will attempt to display the vitality of rural farm life in the Thousand Islands from the perspective of a recent urbanite.

Saturday at the Breakwater Art Gallery she will amaze art lovers and even local residents with watercolor scenes from everyday life along the river.

"I guess I want to create the feeling of being there," she said.

Without falling into the quagmire of gushy sentimentality that is always un-

derfoot of the artist, she said, she portrays the often-painted bucolic subjects of the area with her own fresh perspective.

"When you paint something it kind of seeps into your subconsciousness," Mrs. Krakow said. "I think you experience things more fully when you're an artist."

Although her career has taken her into architecture, Mrs. Krakow has years of experience as an artist.

She began her art studies as an architecture student sketching buildings in Montreal. After graduation, she began a more thorough study of life drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

She had her first solo art show in Montreal. It was 1993, and she had just finished a one-year expedition to Halifax,

Nova Scotia, where she painted as a full-time pursuit.

"Painting full time for a year was great," Mrs. Krakow said. "I don't have time to do that now, but obviously the more you paint, the better you get."

She said she went from simple field sketches to paintings with intricate details and more advanced technique.

Her artwork has won many awards, including first prize in the Cole Harbour Annual Art Exhibit and the Mayor's Prize in the Halifax Contemporary Art Society juried show.

Seven years ago she moved from Montreal with her husband to Wolfe Island,

where she encountered no wolves, only the chickens, rabbits and turkeys on her farm.

Her paintings are also on exhibit at the Summer Dock Studio on Wolfe Island.

Mrs. Krakow is a practicing architect in Kingston and a vice president of the Ontario Association of Architects.

The exhibit opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday. There will be a blues concert on the common from 3 to 5 p.m.

The exhibit will continue until the end of August. Gallery hours are 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays.