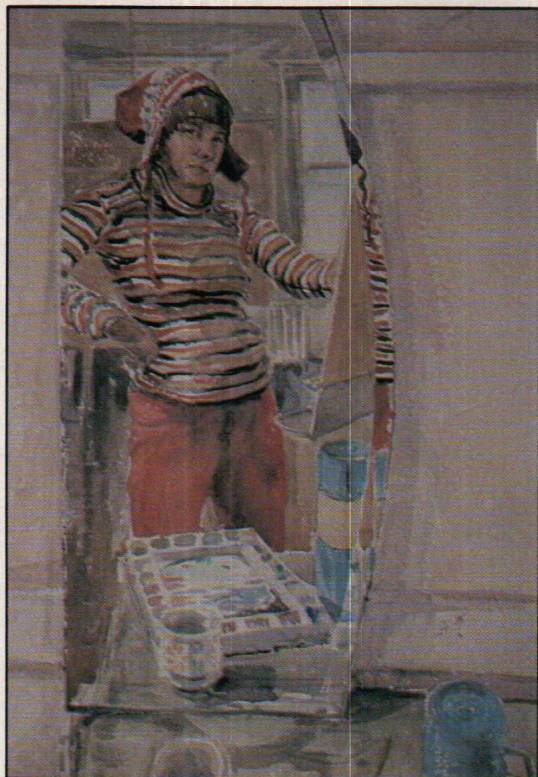




IN THE STUDIO/RUTH TYE McKENZIE



Photo by John Nistico

Ruth Tye McKenzie

ART from page 23

Ruth Tye McKenzie was born in Edmonton and came to this province to attend the Ontario College of Art. But her talent found early successful expression when she was still in school in Alberta, and for two summers she was a scholarship student at the famous Banff School of Fine Arts. When she was graduated from the Ontario College of Art, she was awarded the O.C.A. silver medal for proficiency in advertising art after having been on scholarship in each of her three years there. She has the distinction of having solidly established herself as an artist in southern Ontario.

It seems fair to say that Ruth is primarily a printmaker and watercolour painter, but it would be unfair not to mention that she is accomplished in several media. She obviously brings to what she is doing, both to the subject and to the medium of expression, a love for what is happening. And what is most impressive is that this quality of spirit and enthusiasm for the what and how of her art is found in her drawings, and her prints and her paintings. This is very important because each artistic material has its own requirements and demands. Ruth has shown she understands this in the way that she can make two very difficult disciplines like watercolor and etching look easy. What is really to be appreciated about this sense of ease is that it is not facile nor slick but rooted in what is clearly long practice, honesty and affectionate comprehension of the subject whether it is human being or landscape. Ruth is no literalist of the imagination, but her images are based in nature and are beautifully realized in skillful balance of light and color. The confidence of expression shows that early ability of hers to apprehend form and make it live no matter what her approach or medium.

*Ruth can make two very different disciplines like watercolour and etching look easy.*

DOWN & DOWN/RUTH TYE McKENZIE

