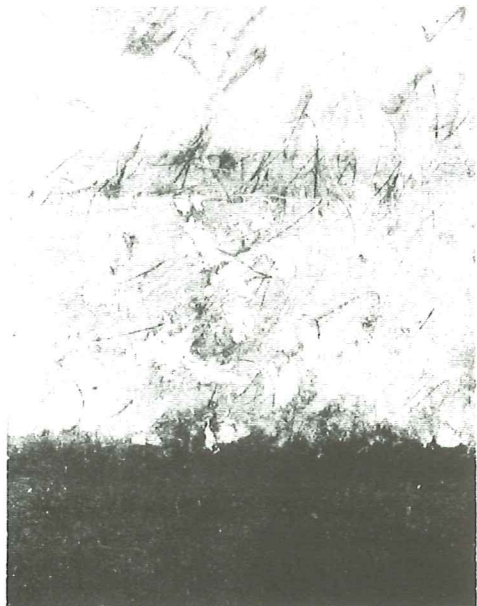


at the galleries



Just a few of Dickson's colors



Artist Cami Thompson. Photo by Devon Meyers

Gallery Gone

Local gallery owners are mourning the passing of one of their own — Janie Beggs Fine Arts, formerly located in the Wheeler Opera House building.

Beggs went out on a limb to bring Aspenites non-mainstream artists including Ron Cooper, Rudy Fernandez, and Jim Gingerich. Beggs also carried work by renowned LA artist Ed Ruscha.

Openings at her gallery were usually as off-beat as the art and one could count on an eclectic cast of characters to make at least a brief appearance.

The closing of the Beggs gallery leaves a void in Aspen's art community.

Thompson Retrospective

"I've been living by my brush since I was 20," said artist Cami Thompson.

Thompson's designs can be seen on shawls, walls and almost everything in between. The busy valley painter/clothing designer is exhibiting a retrospective of wildlife paintings and portraits now through Aug 23 at the Pitkin County Bank, 534 E Hyman.

About four years ago Thompson decided to venture into the clothing business. Using layer upon layer of paint (like the Old Masters, she pointed out), the artist emblazons the materials with a long-wearing design.

Thompson has studied her craft for many years and claimed to have "found lots of short cuts I can take. But it's far better to do it right.

Like a classic painting, "I want my work to endure" for hundreds of years, she said, adding, "the clothing becomes more beautiful as time goes by."

Recently, Thompson and local Dixie Rhinehart began designing ski apparel. Painting on Rhinehart's patented Flex space glove, the artist will match the colors from her palette with a client's ski suit.

Since branching out into new mediums, the artist's canvases have been overshadowed by her clothing and home furnishings. That was the main reason behind her show at the Pitkin County Bank.

For those already familiar with her clothing, she "thought it would be nice to show people my artwork."

Included in the retrospective of commissioned works are six brand new pieces. Thompson works in oil, watercolor and pencil; her clothing is completed with a special textile paint.

Thompson is available for commissions by calling 927-3134.

Paul Pletka

A one-man show entitled "Ute City — Paul Pletka" opens next Thursday at Aspen's Joanne Lyon Gallery, 525 E Cooper.

The exhibit will feature new work in several mediums by the Tesuque, New Mexico artist.

The title of the show, "Ute City," refers to the Ute Indians, rather than Aspen (Ute City is the original name for Aspen).

A new 30" x 40" lithograph, with a limited edition printing of 40, will be included in the gallery show and sale.

The artist has been actively painting for almost two decades. Over the years he has had numerous one-man shows and group exhibitions.

A book entitled *Pletka* has been published by the Northland Press.

Last spring the Dallas Symphony Orchestra honored the artist with a symphony suite which highlighted his paintings over the past 15 years. The music was written by nationally known composer Charles Strouse.

The Paul Pletka exhibition, Joanne Lyon's final show of the summer season continues through Sept 1.

Contemporary Colorist

Color is of primary importance in Mar Dickson's work.

Completely and utterly fascinated with the rainbow of colors available, the artist explores all its aspects and relationships.

Content is less important than the surface and play of color. Dickson usually works in a series, exploring a theme or