

'A Trace of Light' shines brightly in Sandwich

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CONTRIBUTOR

SANDWICH — Henrieke Strecker often says, "I am not a photographer, I am more of a painter." Anyone who has seen her work, however, would say she is indeed an artist in both disciplines.

The woman from Freiburg, Germany's Black Forest region has brought her immense talent and vision to Sandwich, where she has been inspired by the natural beauty around her. Her works, consisting of print-making, photography, and mixed media, are simple but inspirational. Combining her talents in art and photography, she creates pinhole images, solarplate etchings, cyanotypes, and monoprints of the world around her.

"People travel the world to see beauty, when it would

take me an afternoon just to walk and observe all the beauty of my backyard," said Strecker, gesturing towards the large windows. "Beauty is all right here!"

She and her etching press have turned out fabulous pieces, which are mysterious and beautiful etchings. Many are finished with hints of gold leaf or other paints, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

Strecker creates her own Kozo paper to aid some of her etchings. Kozo is a hand-made form of Japanese paper that adds texture to the pieces she etches an image onto. The artistry involved as she creates this paper has even inspired her husband, Franz Nicolay, to write about her labors. A poem he wrote on her art is now printed with others he has written as

an accordion-styled, leporello paper presentation, combining art and poetry. Other leporellos Strecker has done include the works of famed Japanese poet Yosano Akiko.

Photos from earlier exhibits in Germany are imaginative ventures in exposure times with a camera. Utilizing a pinhole camera she herself made, she exposes the film for five to ten minutes, capturing blurred images of a subject as both time and their expressions unfolded. The results are hauntingly rich portraits. Strecker even melded two separate portraits into one, creating interesting images that are

thought provoking and unique.

Moving to the United States this past March, Strecker has received a warm welcome into the art community. Her works thus far have been exhibited in the Edwards Art Gallery at the Holderness School, the Chi Lin Art Gallery in Meredith where she co-exhibited with her husband, and at Concord's Franklin Pierce Law School.

"This, however, is art," stated Strecker, pointing to a lacey leaf found in the woods outside her home. Sunlight streams through from the window where it hangs. "Na-

ture is beautiful!"

Most of her etchings since arriving in Sandwich have been nature-inspired. The coloration she adds to some works brings forward varying facets of the piece, left for the viewer to interpret. On occasion she has reprinted an image more than once, changing the shades of coloration used to enhance each to bring about an entirely different look.

"There is beauty in everything. I try not to compare beauty however, as comparisons only bind you," she said, gesturing towards the array of prints on exhibit. "This is this - this is that. I try

to see everything separately."

As a lauded German artist, she hopes to find the same success here in New Hampshire with her uniquely beautiful presentation of the world around her. Strecker offers workshops and private lessons in pinhole and zone plate photography, solarplate etching, cyanotypes, creating digital negatives, and in Photoshop. She is also available as a graphic designer. Some of her artwork may be seen at www.silverpixel.de. Interested individuals are invited to call 284-6920 to arrange a studio visit of her work or to schedule a lesson or workshop.



PHOTO BY DONNA RHODES

Sandwich artist, Henrieke Strecker, arranges pieces in her exhibit, "A Trace of Light," at her home studio and gallery on Mount Israel Rd.