

# Changes, upcoming exhibits at MCC's Newspace Gallery

By Edith Zeldes

Special to the Journal Inquirer

MANCHESTER — The Newspace Gallery professional art exhibits at Manchester Community College have been expanding ever since they originated within the confines of a stairwell. They currently have progressed to the area adjoining the main lobby in the school's Frederick W. Lowe Building and will soon enlarge even more with a move to an area adjacent to the main lobby in a brand new Arts and Science Building, scheduled to be ready by this coming December.

Students now also exhibit their works twice yearly within the Newspace Gallery and in the hallways of the Lower Building as well as continuously within the Learning Resource Center.

"The biggest and most exciting aspect is our plan to move into the new studio facilities for all fine arts disciplines, says Susan Classen-Sullivan, assistant professor of fine arts and director of the Newspace Gallery. "It's been in the works for at least two years. We will be tripling our space and will have state-of-the-art equipment. The gallery will truly be a new space again."

Sullivan talks of the gallery's approximately once-a-month showing with works by artists both renown and unknown.

"We try to have as diverse a selection of art and artists as possible," she says. "We see our exhibits as

teaching tools as well as cultural enhancement. The arts are a vital part of our college community. Our administration, faculty and staff, support and appreciate it and that makes all the difference."

The upcoming gallery display, March 7 through April 1, will exhibit "Sculpture" by Irene Reed and "Works on Paper" by Eva Lee, followed by "Digital Prints" by James G. Montford from April 11 through May 9. The final showing will be the Student Art Exhibition from May 17 through June 28 in the gallery area of the Learning Resource Center.

Reed has exhibited at Wadsworth Atheneum, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the New Britain Museum of American Art, and many other museums throughout the country. Lee has shown her works at Hunter College and The Bronx Museum of the Arts, both in New York; The Connecticut Commission for the Arts Gallery in Hartford; and others.

Montford's "Digital Prints" address what he calls the "African-American Holocaust," including slavery and Jim Crow segregation.

Montford has exhibited at the Seattle Art Museum, Florence Griswold Museum, Slater Museum in Norwich, and many more. He has received awards from Art Matters Inc. in New York City and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. He also twice received The Pollock Krasner Award for Contemporary Art.

The art exhibits open with receptions at 7 p.m. and an informal talk by the artists. For information, call (860) 512-2693.