

Francine Liftig HYG '42

A Lifelong Passion for Painting

FRANCINE LIFTIG HYG '42 has been painting since the age of 14. Daughter of a physician, married to a dentist, and mother of a dentist, Mrs. Liftig's career in dental hygiene complemented her family's career; but painting has remained central to her life. It has become even more important as she has grown older. "It is," she says, "therapy," when most needed.

But, her success in the art world demonstrates that she is a very serious painter. In Florida, where she and her husband lived for 10 years, Mrs. Liftig won many awards and prizes from the Manatee Art League in Bradenton, the Longboat Art Association in Longboat Key, and the Sarasota Art Association. She was a member of the National League of American Pen Women in Washington, DC, and the Sarasota Art Association of Petticoat Painters.

The Liftigs now live in Connecticut, where she has won awards from the West Hartford Art League and the Wintonbury Art League in Bloomfield. She is a member of the Connecticut Watercolor Society and the West Hartford Art League. Her works are in private collections in France and throughout the United States, including the permanent holdings of the University of Hartford Health Center, where she recently exhibited. A review of that show describes her as being "fascinated with interactions of people, expressing her observations more effectively in paint than in words... in her paintings, characters are captured in a moment of intense emotion, or activity, inviting the viewer to ask: "What's going on, and what might happen?"

This poem, written by an admiring friend, was inspired by Francine Liftig's paintings.

FRANCINE LIFTIG:
SHE PAINTS PEOPLE

She paints people she knows
She studies photographs to know people
people she has not met
fill her home gallery
people in provocative poses
asking questions of themselves,
of you.

She paints people in her thoughts
on early morning walks
along Connecticut's small roadways
along wooded winding paths,
people who come to life in bold
color, on broad canvases
catching your eye as you
enter her domain.

Paintings of people
show a composition
complete, a conjecture,
a vision inviting you
to participate, join in
the conversation.

She paints people
She paints their souls
their spirits, their minds.
She paints her soul,
her evolution
over time.

Constance T. Driscoll

