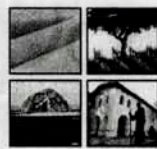


THE TRIBUNE



VWW.SANLUI

Religion
Churches reach
out in new ways
Page B3

LOCAL

THE TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1999

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CA

MEL LEES

ART SCENE



You'll find
this artist's
work underfoot

People walk all over Liz Maruska's paintings. Maruska is not a union journeyman who paints floors of houses. Maruska is a fine artist, some of whose work is used in lieu of fine rugs.

Maruska has a background somewhat different from most artists. Although her undergraduate Smith College degree was in American Art History, she also earned an MBA from MIT in finance.

After a period of investment banking, Maruska decided to become a serious artist and went back to school, studying art at Stanford.

Her business and art background made her a natural to become a consultant to the National Endowment for the Arts. Her achievements include setting up Art Design In Public Transportation, a program that was influential in securing grants for large cities' arts projects.

She was one of only 15 artists to have a studio subsidized by the city of Palo Alto.

Maruska and husband, Don, moved to Morro Bay and in 1997 to Los Osos. Among her commissions is to design a painting for Duke Energy Co. as well as a cover for Duke's annual report.

Since 1988, Maruska has held at least 20 solo or group exhibits. In February 1998, the San Francisco Examiner wrote, "You'll think you're walking on the walls of the Museum of Modern Art."

Interactive art

Another interesting artist is Dorothy Riggs. She's not related to the actress of *The Avengers*, but she is the daughter of the famous tennis player.

Riggs may be as controversial as her dad. Perhaps you remember the uproar over her paintings of *The Peppers*, which hung in City Hall.

Riggs, who is happy if she successfully boots up the computer, has embarked on the cutting edge of virtual reality. She is working with Intermedia Visions of San Luis Obispo to develop interactive software. The compact disk is called "Garden of SHEDen."

The public can see her paintings displayed along moving backgrounds and appropriate music. A click of the mouse brings a narrative of the inspiration behind the creation.

Another click and Riggs' scrapbook appears. The viewer can see Riggs' life unfold through her diaries. Riggs' paintings can be seen at StratsSys' office at 4251 S. Higuera St. No. 500 or in her San Luis Obispo studio. She can be reached by phone at 595-7640.

Needlework attracts many

Embroidery? Oh, isn't that something little old ladies do when they're not knitting?

Marianne Ruprich, president of the Bishop's Peak Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America, set me straight in a hurry. Men and women from all parts of the country participate in more than 30 types of needlework.

Marianne specializes in needlepoint. She starts with a picture painted on a canvas. She buys either a plain or painted canvas, then designs necessary stitches and finally begins sewing. Other members of the chapter do cross-stitch, drawn-thread embroidery, hardanger, lacework ribbon embroidery, smocking or other types of needlework.

The chapter has an active outreach program to teach the skills to children. For information, call Sharon Hanley at 473-3536.