

# New ways to familiar paths

■ Three artists continue to explore in a show at CityArts.

BY CHRIS SHULL  
The Wichita Eagle

Every time you think you know an artist's work, they throw you a curve — by adding new elements to familiar subject matter or by using new techniques to make meanings clearer.

At CityArts, three accomplished artists explore familiar territory in new ways.

Rebecca Hoyer has added new elements — people, interior views, cars — to her colorful, quirky cityscape paintings.

Paul Flippen, who taught at Wichita State and is now on faculty at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, has added a narrative element to his three-part approach to painting.

Trish VanOsdel explores broad cultural themes by referencing intimate family narratives in five bright new sculptures.

The show — lovely to look at and easy to admire — is a snapshot of three accomplished professionals who continue to experiment and explore.

■ Wichita artist Hoyer paints quirky scenes inspired by Wichita's houses and neighborhoods. She flattens perspective and reduces buildings and trees to shapes rendered with cozy colors.

She has grown more comfortable in this style, and now she is pushing some paintings far into abstraction.

The painting "Spring Snow" features flower blossoms falling on a breeze. But the blossoms are circles of pink that seem to punch through the canvas. Tree trunks are slashes of black; distant houses are off-kilter triangles of yellow and gray.

"People have seen enough of my stuff that they know what it is, so I can abstract more without them feeling too intimidated," Hoyer said. "I think it's also me — I just need to show one window or the edge of some-



Courtesy of Rebecca Hoyer

Rebecca Hoyer's painting "Inferno" depicts an abstracted Wichita neighborhood

thing and you'll know what it is."

■ The imagery in Flippen's paintings balances between three main elements — a decorative flourish, a crisply rendered object — a feather, a flower, a key — and a moody, cloudy backdrop.

In his newest painting, "Rising to the Bait," Flippen fiddles with the formula, making the background a soft-focus rendering of a woman wearing a red dress standing in a bedroom holding a drink in each hand.

Over this Flippen paints a dark-blue swirl and a perfectly defined red rose.

Flippen hopes each element will vie equally for a viewer's attention — and that the

dichotomies between each will generate mystery and momentum within the painting.

■ VanOsdel explores obsessive-compulsive disorder and how it can corrode family life in "Tidbit," which features large clay replicas of heart-shaped Valentines candies. Each pale-colored "candy" is stamped with an obsession — Wash Your Hands, No Clutter, Must Have Ice in Tray. The candies fill four trays stacked in descending order from small circumference to large — the obsessions accumulating like water in a garden fountain.

Chris Shull enjoyed the arts in Wichita. His last day at The Eagle was Dec. 14.

## If you go EXHIBIT

**What:** New paintings by Paul Flippen and Rebecca Hoyer, new sculptures by Trish VanOsdel

**Where:** CityArts, 334 N. Mead

**When:** Through Dec. 29. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Open Christmas Eve 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Christmas Day.

**How much:** Free. For information, call 316-462-2787.