



Patience pays off for avant-garde artist

by Chuck Foley

London-born Janet Differ has lived in the United States 32 years, but her exhibit at the Las Vegas Art Museum titled "Metal & Glass" is her first show.

An alumni of UNLV, she described her work as "extremely avant-garde," which she believes is part of the reason acceptance has come slowly.

"There's no crucifixes or

urine," she said, but noted that her style is very different from the other exhibits at the museum.

"They tend to be quite conservative—which says a lot for them to put my work in (a show)," she said.

Originally she was scheduled for the spring of 1994, but when an opening occurred due to a cancellation, she jumped at the opportunity.

Having only two months to prepare, she managed to

come up with seven new pieces, plus the time to revamp three despite having a full-time job. In all, there are 20 pieces, she said.

One of those 20 is a piece called "Duodecaplex" that comprises 12 separate paintings. It is the only one that consists entirely of paint and canvas.

The remainder of her work lives up to the title of the exhibit as she mixes household enamel, automotive paint and

acrylics, with nails, screws, nuts, copper tubing, light bulbs, mirrors, colored glass, twine and wood.

One particularly evocative piece is actually a sculpture titled "Dead City, Or Is It?"

Using styrofoam, straw, glass and paint, she creates a reflection of the modern city and the urban decay that shrouds the life within.

Differ moved to Las Vegas in 1978 and finally earned her Arts degree in 1988 after taking four years off to send her son to college.

Some of her work has been seen in other art shows and exhibits, but this is the first

show that has featured her art.

"I try to enter every competition there is," she said.

The exhibit is on display until Monday, and admission is free. The museum is located at Lorenzi Park on Washington Street in the farthest building to the west of the park.

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