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Ethereal and innovative paintings

By ANNE HILTON Monday, September 28 2009

ON READING Shannon Hutchinson's "bio" in Horizons Art Gallery, I wondered why such an accomplished artist has no entry in my database, for she has earned honours in Canada and Italy where she studied art and has exhibited here in the last ten years that this art review column has been appearing in Newsday.

However, she has more than made up for the gap in my database in her latest, joint, exhibition in Horizons Art Gallery that opened with a Private View on Tuesday, September 22. Indeed one is only sorry that we may only have space for three of her paintings in these pages. At first sight "Tobago Beach" is par for the course, a seascape such as we have often seen before in oils, acrylics, watercolours and pastelle. However, here is the assured touch of the trained artist, an almost ethereal portrayal of the beach in the hazy light of the sun at noon, the pale colours of the sea and the sky that dominates the piece.

"Mayaro Drive Home" is very different, the palms are black, the road grey, the sun dominates the piece, flooding the scene with a golden light.

Perhaps the most interesting, innovative paintings in this exhibition are the aerial views, seen from the cabin or cockpit (MS Hutchinson is a pilot). "Untitled (Horizon)" is a large, impressive piece that speaks of space and time and the world of clouds and weather.

Portraiture is Kristy Galt Franco's strength as an artist. "Hope" is a poppet, a sweetie; the artist has caught the mixture of innocence and mischief in this child. "Edward" looks at us as if suspecting - who knows what? The sidelong look, the sensuous lips, the heavy brows give an impression of menace, of brooding, of suspicion.

"Amaryllis" is an explosion of colour of the flower itself that blooms and dies so swiftly. The joint exhibition of paintings by Shannon Hutchinson and Kristy Galt Franco continues in Horizons Art Gallery until October 3.

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