

PLEASURES OF SURREALISM IN RESTON

By William Nicoson

Surrealistic art surprises us, sometimes shocks us, but always forces us to think. It's an art that opens our horizons from the obvious to the obscure. At its best, it is represented by Dana Ann Scheurer's watercolors in her current exhibition at the Hyatt Regency Bar & Grill in Reston's Town Center. Don't miss it.

In "Morning Glories" we encounter arresting medieval towers on a checkered platform over a beach embracing the flowers, of course, but also sail boats, beach balls, fish and fishing lines, snails, and ducks all framed by pediments heralding a diagonally striped tower and an artist's palette belonging, apparently, to a well proportioned female artist whose framed watercolor portrays two other well proportioned females running so hard on their beach that their extremities escape the frame. Scheurer's poetic morning beaches are glories indeed.

"Water Garden" is a stunning underwater watercolor, all pinks, blues and greens, with four large double-tailed fish mixed with snails, flowers, frogs and a dragonfly.

"Coin-Op" portrays two figures composed of chopped body-parts. The male offers the female a flower (a Morning Glory of course). A fisherman's line metamorphoses into a clothes line for underwear, stockings and a brightly striped shirt. An artist's palette reminds us that nothing in an artist's world is impossible.

All this prepares us for "Artist's Palette" in which the palette becomes a painting itself: a pointillist landscape of a woman and two children walking in an open field. Behind the artist is a small reproduction of major aspects of the painting itself. It's as if the painting is the artist.

"Real Food" offers 46 lateral inches of humor. Three figures sit at an outside table in front of the Mercury Fountain in Reston Town Center. The figures register shock as a frankfurter comes alive with carrots for feet and a parasol for shade.

"Gallery Flight" is a square watercolor featuring Degas-like paintings and sculpture mixed with architectural allusions to the towers on each side of the Mercury Fountain and to the Roman Pantheon. This Gallery is home to numerous musical instruments, a toaster, a suitcase, a sock and a cock of the walk. A singular flight of fancy.

I'm pleased that the Scheurer exhibition will remain through April. I won't go back every week but likely every other week. Surrealism at its best tells us more, much more, that we can absorb in one, two or three exposures.

William Nicoson knows little about art but he knows what he likes.

