

French Corner In Haverford Schedules Paris-Style Event

By LINDA DORMONT
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French Corner Antiques at 16 Haverford Station Rd., Haverford, is planning a month-long event of art and antiques, beginning Wednesday, in coordination with an exposition called "La Semaine du Carre Rive Gauche" given by the antiques dealers of Paris.

"Once a year," explains Daniele Veroli, who owns the shop with her husband, Guy, "the top French dealers gather near a square on the Left Bank of Paris to show the public their finest acquisitions. We thought this such a wonderful idea that we decided to do something here."

The Verolis will show their new find: a pair of Louis XVI chairs (circa 1790-1820), carved to suit a king. Of course, their entire inventory of high-quality 18th and 19th-century French country furniture and decorative objects of art will be on view.

They also will present the small watercolors of Artist Maya Starr of Merion. Measuring 9-by-11 inches to 10-by-12 inches in their delicate gold frames, these luminous watercolor/gouache miniatures, in vivid shades of brown and blue, celebrate the beauty and fertility of all life.

"I take my inspiration from ancient Persian, Arabic and Hebrew manuscripts and from early Renaissance illuminations," says the artist, who has long admired both the religious and secular art of the Middle Ages.

Of French and Italian parentage, educated in a fine arts school in Paris, Maya Chabrol Starr came to America in 1967 to work in book and magazine illustration in New York City.

Her finely detailed drawings are painted under a magnifying lamp with needle-thin brushes. She uses only the highest quality English watercolors, switching to an agate stone to gild her gold borders. She signs every painting with the floral script of a medieval noblewoman.

The people in her paintings float weightlessly around a tree of life, playing with apples, moons and flowers in joyful evocations of the artist's dreams and memories.

"The liberation of people and nature is a common theme in my paintings," says Starr, who has shown her art in England and Italy, as well as throughout the Philadelphia area. She recently won an award for her oil paintings from the board of directors of the Main Line Center of the Arts in Haverford.

The Verolis say their special event will also showcase the pottery of Martine Vermeulen, a French artist who creates dishes, bowls and platters with nature-inspired motifs.

Maya Starr's watercolors start at \$110.

Opening Day, Wednesday, May 5, French Corner Antiques will welcome the public from 1 to 8 p.m.; thereafter: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Call 642-6867.



MAYA STARR, Merion artist, at work on her miniature watercolors, which will be on display at French Corner Antiques in Haverford during a special month-long event.