

## Canby artist revives lost art form

By Jeff Schoessler and Thad Kreisher

Of The Print

When was the last time you were at an art show featuring the works of a unique and well known artist? If it's been a while, then now would be an excellent time to make up for lost time.

Currently, at the Pauling Center, an exhibit of paintings

by local artist Frances Van Hevelingen is on display.

A resident of Canby, Van Hevelingen's work is frequently featured at the Fountain Gallery in Portland. Her encaustic paintings have also been displayed at such places as the Portland Art Museum, the Seattle Art Museum, and the distinguished Smithsonian Institute.

The encaustic technique she employs has made Van Hevelingen's name well known in the art world. This technique was first discovered and utilized by the ancient Greeks. Later, the Egyptians used a similar process in their mummy paintings.

With this method, paint and wax are applied in layers and fixed to a surface with hot

irons. The encaustic process is doubly difficult in that the background is done last, and the foreground first, the exact opposite of the norm. Furthermore, once begun there can be no mistakes in the process. Usually, if a mistake is made it means that the entire thing must be scrapped and done over again. Van Hevelingen is one of the only artists who

uses the encaustic method.

Frances Van Hevelingen's exhibit of twenty paintings will be on display through November 7. From the moody, fused shades of "Stonehenge" to the swirling blues of "Sea, Land, and Stone", each painting is diverse and unique. This sample of Van Hevelingen's work is a delightful lesson in the ancient art of encaustic painting.



A sampling of Van Hevelingen's work on display at the Pauling Center. The exhibit will run through Nov. 7.



Photos by George Waller

