

Gallery Blooms at Marders Site

By Pat Rogers

If it looks like a rooster and con-torts like a rooster, it still might not be a rooster. It might be, in fact, an expressionistic painting by Mica Invisible Marder hanging in an exhibition at a gallery named after a type of duck.

Mr. Marder is one of six artists whose work is on view in the first group show at the new Muscovy Gallery in Bridgehampton. The show, "Artists of Springs," opened last Saturday and runs through January 9.

The exhibiting artists are Steve Loschen, Dennis Lawrence, Tim Tibus, Bill Hofmann, Trish Franey and Mr. Marder.

Like the roosters, horses and other animals that inspire Mica Marder, the Muscovy Gallery is more than it appears. Set in a whitewashed barn on the grounds of Marder's in Bridgehampton, the rustic exterior is a deceiving facade for the sophisticated yet earthy and interesting art gallery inside.

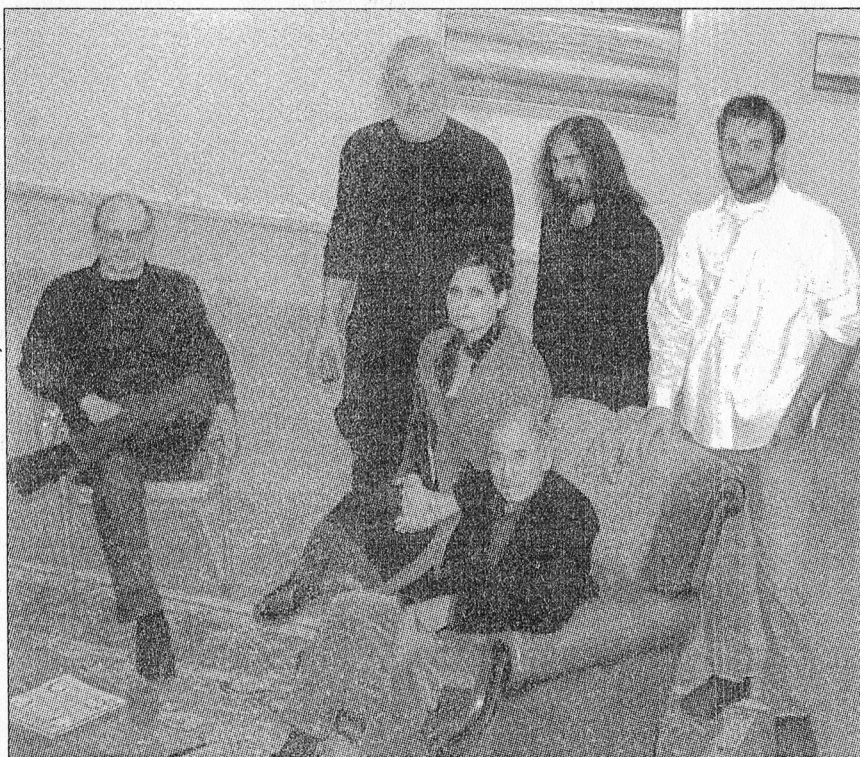
The ceilings soar to heights of around 40 feet from the gallery's first floor and continue to be generous from the gallery's second-floor space. The gallery has the feel of an airplane hanger, yet imbues a cozy vibe. Inviting plush chairs and a couch encourage visitors to take a seat. And if taking in the art isn't enough, the carefully selected literary magazines on the coffee table might just provoke a thought or two.

"We want people to come in and stay awhile," gallery director and founder Silas Marder said. "That's one of the things I hope will happen with the gallery—that people will feel comfortable enough to come in, sit down and relax, and stay as long as they like."

The gallery's lighting is a mix of antique and current. Converted farm equipment found in a Wisconsin field illuminates the gallery from above. Newly purchased spotlights highlight art displayed on cream-colored or white backdrops. The interior is newly revamped from its former incarnation as storage space. Yet it stills pay homage to its former agricultural past in the railings of wire and wood that line the staircase and upper level, and in the glass sliding door made up of discarded factory panels.

"Everything" in the gallery was carefully chosen," said Silas Marder. "I wanted it to have a mix of old and new and to reflect things that are important to me."

The gallery's name has this same mix of looking to the past and the future while containing philosophies dear to its founder. Silas Marder's parents, Charles and



Attending the Artists of Springs exhibition opening reception last Saturday were, clockwise from seated left, artists Steve Loschen, Dennis Lawrence, Tim Tibus, gallery director Silas Marder and artists Bill Hofmann and Trish Franey (also seated).

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Kathleen Marder, own and operate Marder's on Snake Hollow Road in Bridgehampton, reflecting the same love of the natural world mixed with a liberal dash of cultured sophistication found at the Muscovy Gallery.

Silas Marder's exposure to Muscovy ducks originated at his family's Springs home, where his father raises ducks and chickens. "There are aspects of the Muscovy ducks I appreciate," he said. "They have quirky personalities, and they're all different. When you buy them, they're either black or white. When they breed, the new ducks are random configurations of both. I like the randomness and how the colors create something interesting. Plus, they're funny."

The gallery's first show was held around Labor Day to note the beginning of the end of the landscaping season. The only artist featured was Mica Marder.

An equal amount of thought went into assembling the first group show of the Muscovy Gallery. The gallery director wanted to exhibit his brother's work again to give him additional exposure. But this time around, 'Silas Marder' decided to also feature artists known from his childhood home in Springs to cre-

ate an exhibition that is meaningful, intimate and intriguing.

The exhibition reflects a number of artistic styles. Mr. Loschen's paintings and sculpture are colorful and whimsical and feature distinctive shapes. Mr. Lawrence's 10-foot-plus canvases are abstract with recurring visual ideas. Mr. Tibus focuses on the landscapes of the East End. Mr. Hofmann's work is abstract with sweeping strokes. Ms. Franey's mixed media artwork is amusing and thought-provoking, with dark undertones. Mica Invisible Marder's portraits of animals are expressionistic.

Mr. Marder hopes the Muscovy Gallery will be open year-round, starting this spring. The gallery will close for additional renovations in January and probably reopen in March. Possible plans call for exhibiting large sculpture to take advantage of the expansive space.

"There's a lot of things that can be done here because of the size of the space," Silas Marder said.

"Artists of Springs" will be on display at the Muscovy Gallery until January 9. A holiday reception will be held Saturday, December 18, from 4 to 8 p.m. For information, call (516) 381-0916.