

Professor's paintings visit Houston gallery

By **RENEE HARRELL**
Reporter

A couple of years ago Richard Davison began doodling with colored chalk after teaching his drawing and design classes. Now he's showing 16 pastels at a Houston gallery.

His exhibit, at Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Inc., is called "Theatrical Landscapes: Pastels on Paper." It will hang until July 28. Davison has been teaching environmental design at Texas A&M for three years.

Three of his large paintings, 40 inches by 60 inches, could sell for \$1,500 apiece, Davison says. The 11 small paintings, 18 by 24 inches, could sell for about \$450 each. He also has two 28 by 44-inch paintings in the exhibit.

"If the public likes it, the prices could jump up," Davison says. "They've not been for sale in previous competitions. I've been saving for this show."

Davison's other work has been

shown in Virginia, California, Texas, Missouri, Indiana and Florence, Italy. He has received a merit award, an honorable mention award and a special merit award.

Five of Davison's pieces are in the permanent collection at the Texas A&M Medical Sciences Complex.

"I've been seriously painting about 10 years," Davison says. "I've only been working with pastels about two years."

Davison started using colored chalk in class to make his lectures more interesting.

"After lectures, I'd doodle," Davison says. "I liked the effects I got on the chalk board with the dark background. I've been developing that image for about two years."

Davison says he uses a "relatively" dark background for his pastels, but not jet black.

"I'm real interested in light and color," Davison says. "I feel I can see the color better on a dark back-

ground. I look at the color as making an illusion of light."

Davison received a bachelor's degree in environmental design from Texas A&M in 1975. Since then, he has earned a master's degree in fine arts from Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Joe Hutchinson, an environmental design professor at Texas A&M, says Davison was always a gifted student.

"I've known him since he was a student here," Hutchinson says. "He was outstanding because he tended to span the breach between arts and architecture. He has grown in his work considerably because of his research and exploration into the concept of light and color."

Hutchinson says the dark background in Davison's work makes the color more intense.

"He uses small strokes of color on a black surface," Hutchinson says.



Texas A&M Professor Richard Davison works on one of his pastels.

"This, coupled with landscape, is sort of lyrical. You can see trees, shapes of houses and as suddenly as they appear, they begin to merge with other forms. It's much like color and light reflected in water."

Toll-free hotline offers free help to Texas women

By **LESLIE HEFFNER**
Reporter

A new service in Texas offers free legal advice and counseling to women. The service — a toll-free hotline — is sponsored by the Women's Advocacy Project, a non-profit organization based in Austin.

The hotline, started in October 1983, was established because research showed a need for such a service, says attorney Betsy Loar, executive director of the Project. The organization received so many calls from the Austin area that project

leaders felt there was need for the service throughout the state, Loar said.

Since January, the hotline has averaged about 150 calls per month.

"Many of our callers need very basic legal information or a referral to an attorney in their area who specializes in dealing with the type of problem the caller has," Loar says.

The hotline focuses primarily on sex discrimination issues, but offers free legal advice and counseling on all women's legal rights.

Loar usually refers the callers to

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attorneys in their own areas who have agreed to provide the callers with a free 30-minute initial consultation, she says. More than 50 attorneys now participate in the program.

"The number of attorneys participating in our referral service is in-

creasing all the time," Loar says, "our goal being to eventually have enough attorneys in all areas of the state to handle the needs of all our callers."

The attorney often faces an uphill battle.

One Midland attorney said: "I feel strongly about helping women enforce their rights, but I know very little about sex discrimination law. I'd have to learn a whole new, complex area of law on my own, and I'd be up against well-paid and experienced corporate lawyers. That's pretty discouraging."

In handling sex-discrimination cases, the project offers free legal assistance, co-counsel on selected cases, financial assistance, seminars on related areas of the law, and other services.

Loar says that although the project focuses on sex-discrimination issues, 60 percent of the calls are about child custody and wife abuse, 30 percent deal with employment discrimination and 10 percent are miscellaneous questions.

So far the hotline is not widely known, but one Texas A&M student who was involved in a verbal harassment case on the job — senior accounting major Joan Meyers — was pleased to learn about it.

The hotline number is 1-800-221-FAIR.

Tower returns to SMU as visiting lecturer

United Press International

DALLAS — Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, who will retire at the end of the year, Monday accepted a teaching position at his alma mater, Southern Methodist University, which he said he chose over nine other schools he had considered.

The senior senator, who is heading the re-election campaign of President Reagan in Texas, did not completely rule out the possibility of being offered a cabinet position if Reagan is re-elected but said such a position would only be temporary.

"I have not been offered a high level government position," Tower told a news conference called to announce his appointment as a distinguished lecturer in political science.

"If I were, I would have to look at that and of course if I were to do that, it would make a difference in

my arrangement at SMU. However, that would be short term and I still plan to teach at SMU afterward."

Tower has been mentioned as a candidate for secretary of defense if Reagan is re-elected.

SMU President L. Donald Shields, who made the announcement, said Tower's adjunct faculty appointment will take effect at the end of this year. Tower will be a visiting lecturer in the spring 1985 semester and will teach a course in the fall of 1985.

Tower, who graduated from SMU in 1953, said he considered "nine or 10 schools" before choosing the United Methodist-affiliated university.

"SMU is on its way to being a world class university in just about every area," Tower said. "And, of course, I have sentimental attach-



Sen. John Tower

ment to SMU. I have a graduate degree from SMU and my three children graduated from here. Also my parents went to SMU. We are three generations at SMU."

Dollar hits record high in Europe; gold plunges

United Press International

LONDON — The U.S. dollar surged to record highs against major European currencies Monday, delighting American tourists and disturbing finance ministers worried about huge Third World debts.

The surge meant U.S. vacationers in Europe got more local currency for their dollars, meaning hotels, meals, drinks, sightseeing, theaters and purchases were cheaper than they expected when they left home.

European Community finance ministers meeting in Brussels expressed fears the rising dollar and high U.S. interest rates could damage their economies and hinder the ability of Third World countries to meet payments on their foreign debts.

"We are all concerned about the

evolution of the dollar and of the interest rates," Irish Finance Minister Alan Dukes said. "These have an immediate effect on our own economies, and also an overall effect on the debt problem worldwide."

"People are buying dollars. They need them for oil and other things," said a Swiss foreign exchange dealer in Zurich.

Gold plunged \$8 to \$339.50 an ounce in Zurich from \$347.50. It dropped \$1.50 in London to \$340.00 from \$341.50 Friday.

The Union Bank of Switzerland said the dollar's strength was "due to predictions of high interest rates in the United States plus growth in the demand for private loans."

Gold's tumble reflected the "firmness of the dollar, rising inter-

est rates and overabundance of supply," it said.

Earlier, the afternoon fixing in Frankfurt was a 10-year high of 2.8446 Deutschmark against 2.84 Jan. 29, 1974, and in Paris it was 8.73 francs, surpassing last Thursday's record fix of 8.6940.

Although it eased back on closing in both centers, it still ended higher on Friday's previous closings. Bankers said West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, sold \$72.3 million to shore up the mark during the day.

The dollar ended at 2.8395 mark in Frankfurt, up from Friday's 2.8280, and 2.39075 Swiss francs in Zurich, a seven and one-half-year high and up from 2.3792.

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