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Artist Is Attuned to Joy



*Untitled (acrylic on canvas), Joan Talty, 1992.
Photo, Dennis Daily, University Library*

An untitled contemporary abstract painting by Las Cruces artist Joan Talty recently went on permanent display at New Mexico State University's Zuhl Library. It is hung near another of Talty's works, "9/11," on the third floor of Zuhl Library. Talty painted the 4' x 6' acrylic on canvas in 1992, two years after she and her husband, Herbert Zuhl, moved from Manhattan to Las Cruces. Talty stated that the work doesn't have a theme, but it reflects how she felt at the time she painted it. She quoted Leo Tolstoy's comment, "Art is not a handicraft; it is the transmission of feeling the artist has experienced."

The painting's vivid colors show the influence of one of Talty's favorite artists, Henri Matisse. Talty admires not only the color and form of the works of Matisse, but also his philosophy that art should make a positive statement and should be joyful and uplifting.

As a student at the Art Students League of New York, Talty learned that artists are the antennae of society and that they have a responsibility to the viewers of their art. She noted that "Untitled" needed to be a large painting, and was the strongest work that she had completed at that time in her career. For more information, contact the University Library Administration at (505) 646-1508.