



MARC BENCE, THE JOURNAL

Edmonton artist Arlene Wasylynychuk shows her painting *La Feria* at the Scott Gallery.

Hot, dry Spain the artistic remedy for cold, wet Alberta

Arlene Wasylynychuk's Scott Gallery show might be opening in a cold, wet autumn, but the inspiration for the landscape exhibit was significantly hotter and drier.

"I had the privilege of getting a grant from the Valparaiso Foundation and was able to work for a month in Mojacar," a Moorish fortress town in southern Spain, says the Edmonton-based artist.

"I was there with seven other artists and it was a wonderful experience. They treat you like royalty, cooking gourmet meals and doing your laundry, so that all you focus on is art."

For Wasylynychuk, this meant wandering about the hot, dry Spanish countryside doing a series of ink drawings, small watercolours and acrylic paintings that became this Scott Gallery exhibit, *Andaluz*.

"I'm trying to get across a sense of place, the essence of the landscape, in my art. This means trying to get across this sense of the passing of time, the heat and the melody of southern Spain's atmosphere," Wasylynychuk says.

"I wanted to bring about that sense of interweaving you see in that part of the world with the ancient world abutting the modern in the geology, the architecture and the culture."

Gilbert Bouchard



Spain's Moorish history and the nation's traditional role as a crossroads of eastern and western traditions is also hinted at, says Wasylynychuk.

She is always aware of the fragmented and isolated nature of landscape painting.

"I've always been very aware of (David) Hockney's assertion that any painting is an object in the world with its own reality. Art isn't just a passive window on the world."

Being attune to this "object" nature of painting makes Wasylynychuk hyper-aware of all the choices that go into the making of a work of art as well as the always "tricky" business of trying to collapse four dimensions (including time) into a two-dimensional surface.

"I'm always bouncing between abstraction and naturalism, in part because I'm aware of how all the formal el-

PREVIEWS

Arlene Wasylynychuk's Andaluz

Showing at: The Scott Gallery, 10411 124th St.

From: Sept. 11-23; meet the artist at the opening reception Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Sean Caulfield Artist's Talk

Showing at: Edmonton Art Gallery, 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Until: Sept. 16, 7 p.m.

ements — the colours, the brushstrokes, the composition — come together to create that artificial sense of place."

Caulfield's Dante

Another Scott Gallery-represented artist — printmaker Sean Caulfield — is featured in the Visit with Artists lecture series presented by Alberta Society of Artists (ASA) and the Edmonton Art Gallery.

This series, featuring artists from all across Canada, was designed to provide an exploration of the intellectual and emotional underpinnings of an artist's practice.

Caulfield will discuss the research he has undertaken over the past decade, focusing on a recent series of prints inspired by *Dante's Inferno*.