



Marilyn and Phillip Santareli of Harveys Lake



An example of Kline's early mural work



The Band played on...



David and Darlene Payne, Wilkes-Barre



Charlotte DiPasquale, Lake Louise



Betty McDonald, Wilkes-Barre

Reception for Franz Kline exhibit at Misericordia

The beginnings of the art style known as abstract expressionism will be on display at the MacDonald Art Gallery at College Misericordia through January 30, when the College features "Franz Kline: the Lost Murals and Early Works" exhibition.

This exhibition, which opens the Gallery's 1990 schedule, is important because the murals laid the groundwork for Kline's later work as an abstract expressionist, said Brian J. Benedetti, gallery director. The murals also show Kline's use of an "intuitive lyrical line," Benedetti added.

Kline painted the five murals in 1933 on the wood-slat paneled walls of a Lehighon roller-skating rink. The paintings, which show five different performing jazz musicians, were saved when the rink was torn down some years later. Edward Halter Meneeley, a friend and colleague of Kline and a well-known abstract expressionist artist from Weissport, recently came upon the murals' owners and arranged for their public showing.

In these paintings, Kline imitated the style of 1920's illustrator John Held, Jr., but used his own loose brushstrokes and curving

lines to give the musicians an energetic, improvised attitude, Benedetti noted. Lighthearted balloons and musical notes wafting through the background add a festive air, he added.

Kline, who was born in Wilkes-Barre in 1910, grew up in Lehighon and later moved to Greenwich Village, N.Y. At his death in 1962, he was seen as one of the world's foremost abstract expressionistic painters and a member of the "New York School," an important part of the abstract expressionist movement.

This important exhibition is free

and open to the public. The MacDonald Art Gallery hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12-5, 6-8 p.m.; Friday, 12-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; closed Monday. The Gallery is located in Regina Hall, adjacent to the Rosenn Plaza on the College Misericordia campus.

Photos by Charlotte Bartizek

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