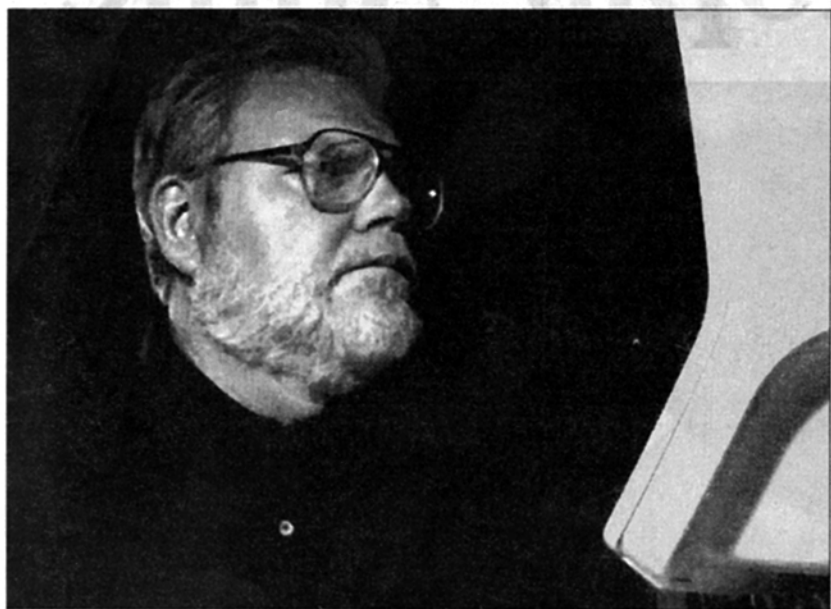


## ART

## Stanley tangos with two



Electronic easel: Artist Robert Stanley juxtaposes hand-painted and computer art at Oakton Community College.

By MYRNA PETLICKI

Artist Robert Stanley's vision is realized through two media in his one-man show "Bracketed" at Oakton Community College's William A. Koehnline Gallery in Des Plaines.

The exhibit by the recently retired Oakton art professor includes examples of his acrylic painting and computer art on related themes from the early 1980s to the present.

Initially, the Des Plaines artist became interested in working on the computer as a way to make preliminary studies for planned art pieces, rather than doing them by hand.

He soon discovered that "the computer comes nowhere near the subtlety or the richness of the color that you can get with paint.

"I began to realize that computer to painting is like watercolor to oils. It's just a different medium."

## Teaching by example

Stanley asserts that trying new media and exhibiting are essential for a teacher.

"I always thought it would be pretty hard to teach and not do it yourself," he explained.

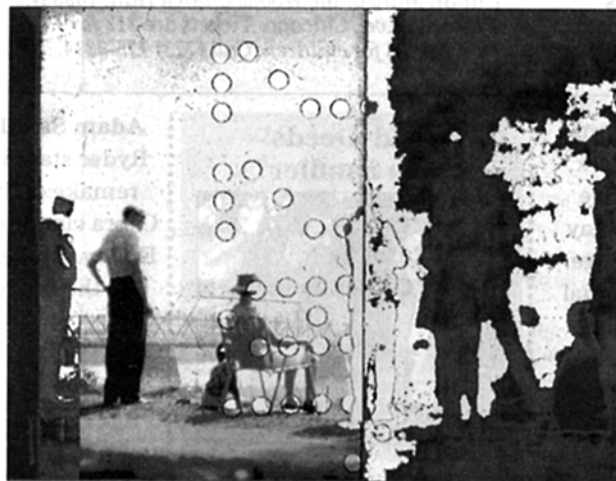
He added that mounting shows gives insight into what it takes to create an exhibit and enter art contests: "You can tell your students things that will help them fit what they're learning in the classroom into the real world."

The artist certainly has a wealth of experience with his students. His work has been featured in dozens of exhibits throughout the country and in France, since 1969, and Stanley has won nearly a dozen grants and honors.

## The more things change...

In "Bracketed," Stanley explores versatility with similar elements of design.

"There's kind of a central area with the things that happen at the outside



"Sunset Viscera," computer print.

and where they intersect creating an event," Stanley explained. His intent was to demonstrate "there are things outside the boundaries of our everyday existence that influence us."

It soon became apparent to the artist that he had to let each medium take the lead in expressing that idea.

"Worlds" is an abstract acrylic work that can be viewed as a butterfly or a part of the human body. "Enlightenment" is a related piece in which Stanley takes advantage of computer capability by scanning a Da Vinci drawing and placing it in a corner of the work.

In a section of the exhibit called "Kinship," the artist again created similar pieces using the two mediums. Three works highlight the differences of approaching a similar subject - in this case an artist's struggle to capture what he sees on canvas - in two media.

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The computer to painting is like watercolor to oils — just a different medium.

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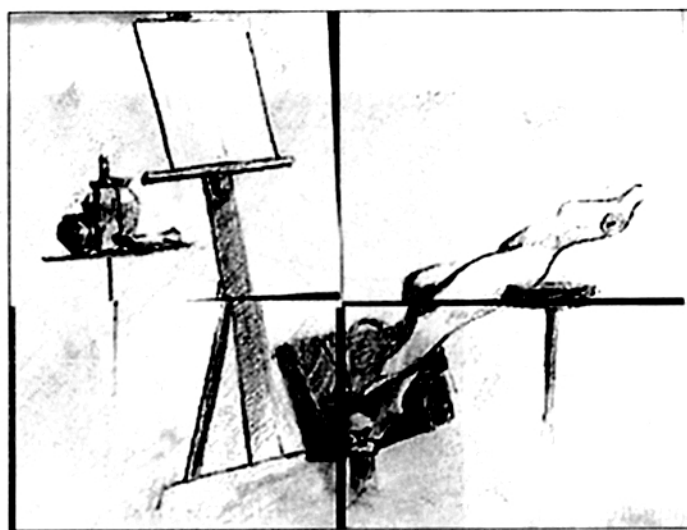
Robert Stanley

"Sunset Viscera" (computer archival print) and "Chiaroscuro" (acrylic) employ the color red to create two very different moods because of the mediums.

"Bracketed," the last piece in the show, is a computer study that takes its inspiration from pieces created by the artist in several other mediums, including a sketch, sculpture and oil painting.

"It's a bringing together of a bunch of elements," the artist explained. "You don't know if there's order in them. I used to believe there's order in the chaos. Now, I'm not so sure."

"Bracketed," is on display through July 11 at Oakton Community College's William A. Koehnline Gallery, 1600 E. Golf Rd., Des Plaines. Call (847) 635-2633.



"Natural Lives, Visions," acrylic painting.



"Bracketed" features paintings and sketches scanned into a computer image.