

## Figurative Works Featured in Exhibition at Wente Vineyards



A debut exhibit of abstract figurative paintings by Linda Ryan will be shown at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Livermore.

The works will hang in the tasting room through August 28. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. A reception with the artist will be held on Sun., July 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. The public is invited. There is no admission charge.

The winery is located at 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. For information, call 456-2300.

Ryan uses brushes sized for house painting and a tool that works like a cross between a spatula and a squeegee to make a unique variety of marks to create close-ups and references to human figures that drop, ooze and dance across the canvas. A fascination with surface, exposure of what lies below it, movement and a love

of the versatility of acrylics led Ryan through an exploration of flowing gel abstracts to her unique treatment of an ancient subject.

"I see the figure as a celebration of form and our humanity, as weir as a metaphor for truth and exposure," she says. "I love movement. It's all over the pieces - probably because I play loud music and dance while I work."

Although she usually paints nudes, in consideration of the winery's customers, Ryan has painted ambiguous or clothed figures for this show, while retaining figurative tradition.

During the course of this exhibition, Ryan is also being filmed for a documentary on local women artists.

Ryan has lived in Livermore for the last ten years. She started painting seriously four years ago when she began taking art classes from Bill Paskewitz, director of the art department at Las Positas College. She is a co-op member of the ArtWorks Studio in Livermore, where she produces and periodically shows her work.

Many of her gel abstract works are available at the Danville Art Gallery, 334 , Hartz Avenue, Danville.