



R-S photos by Eddie Maravill

Art teacher Barbara Enochian, right, helps with the assembly of a collage in a Redding Museum beginning art class for adults.

A is for Art

Adults try their hand as novice artists

Redding artist and teacher Barbara Enochian has found that adults are willing to try something new — in this case, trying their hand at art.

By John Crowe
R-S staff reporter

Call it feel-good art. That's not to suggest the artwork lacks merit, but it's apparent that one of the strengths of the Redding Museum of Art and History art class for adults is the absence of severe criticism.

"I wanted to play. It's a safe place to play," said Roberta Owen of Redding about her decision to enroll in the class taught by Redding artist Barbara Enochian. "There's no judging."

"She (Enochian) has a great appreciation for everyone's effort. She makes you feel like you're accomplishing something," offered Esther Montgomery of Redding.

"This class is great for your artistic ego. The class and Barbara are very encouraging," said Pat Tallerico of Redding.

Like many of the others enrolled in the four-week class, Tallerico is a beginner as an artist.

"I never painted, I never did anything (artistic), but I'm having a great time," she said. While readily conceding that her art skills are such that "I might be a student for quite a while," Tallerico said she thinks she has already learned to look at things a little differently. She said she is more aware of texture and color in objects.

"Most people look at things pretty flat," she said.

Owen, also a novice artist, said the art class for beginners might be "getting my toe wet, but I have no visions

of grandeur."

For Lavone Curto of Redding, the class April 30 was her first.

"I'm really a beginner. But I've always wanted to do art and I'd really like to get into it," she said as she fashioned a collage from colorful pieces cut from a magazine.

Among the students was Dan Cherry, a retired California Department of Transportation employee who has been doing watercolors of area scenes for many years.

He said he decided to take Enochian's class to "pick up some other ideas. Maybe I can loosen up a little bit."

He said he enjoyed the lack of pretension in the class and found it a refreshing change from various workshops led by noted artists.

"When you go to workshops, you find yourself painting like them (the artists conducting the workshops)," he said.

Enochian said she been pleased to see the adults let down their guard a bit as they continue in the class.

"Adults are more intimidated, I think. Kids just dig in, but the more (the adults) have gathered, the more they take chances," she said, adding that a little risk-taking is good — even if it seems not to have worked out.

"Some of the best things that happen are because of mistakes."

The class gathers again today, concluding a third four-week session and wrapping up for the summer.

Enochian said she will teach the class again if there is interest among adults.

Reporter John Crowe can be reached at 225-8265 or at jcrowe@recsearch.com on e-mail.



Pat Tallerico, right, momentarily takes a hands-off approach as Barbara Enochian adjusts her cut-and-paste work.