

The Arts

Painter Kerlake captures details of moments

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CORRESPONDENT

SARASOTA — When the subject of a painting, such as a room or a garden, serves as a metaphor for a state of mind, the psychic energy can be expressed in the nature of the paint's application and in the intensity of color — intermediaries between the painting's observable and its psychological facts.

Kenneth Kerlake is a printmaker and painter of such interiors and exteriors, using them to great effect in prints and paintings on exhibit in Sarasota. The true subject matter is the mood of the moment.

In the paintings suffused with light and strong shadows, the artist invests these fixed moments in time with implications of events that have just occurred. Kerlake uses light to create complex silhouettes of furniture, or plants on the floor or ground, for mood. The steep angle from which the observer looks into the painting makes him a dream voyeur, rather than someone walking into the scene. Images are given luster through the bold application of color and the artist's ability to convey autobiographical allusion in the placement of objects.

All these painterly devices transform these objects

from their trivial domestic purposes into archetypes and symbols.

In "A Glass of Wine, A Good Book," Kerlake paints two chairs in a patio on either side of a glass table. Light streams in from windows on the right, spreading a complex series of near-abstract expressionist red silhouettes on a yellow-green floor. On the table sits an empty wine glass and an open book. In dreams, windows symbolize the eyes, the windows of the soul. The chairs, an archetype of security and authority, are executed with confident staccato brush strokes.

Having put down his book and wine, the painter turns and records the quiet pleasure of the moment. In the detail of Kerlake's paintings and prints, there is a lot to see in that moment.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ken Kerlake's "Sarah's World" calls up visions of a task remembered over morning coffee on the patio.

REVIEW

Kenneth Kerlake
Paintings, prints.
Through June 28,
Allyn Gallup
Contemporary
Art/Mira Mar
Gallery, 1284 Palm
Ave. N., Sarasota.
Call 366-2093.

PLEASE SEE KERSLAKE ON 32