



ART SHOW. Local artist Susan Eck opened her first solo show at the Chapel Gallery on Saturday. The show, called *Fantasy and Truth*, contains works in several different media, including oils, acrylics and watercolours. Eck lives on Three Mile Lake and started painting in earnest about nine years ago.

Photo by Mary-Lyn Tebby

Muskoka artist Susan Eck opens her first solo show

by Mary-Lyn Tebby

Artist Susan Eck's first solo show, *Fantasy or Truth*, opened at the Chapel Gallery on King Street in Bracebridge on Saturday.

Eck, who moved to Muskoka 12 years ago, has been painting for the past nine years.

"I'm a late bloomer," said Eck. "I had natural creative instincts even as a kid, but my family didn't think I could make a living with art."

Eck suppressed her artistic instincts and headed for the business world. She has been

a professor of marketing at Seneca College in Toronto for the past 14 years.

"I have enjoyed my career and I am grateful for the opportunities it gave me," said Eck, who still teaches on a contract basis.

She says she finds the young people with whom she associates at the college to be a source of inspiration for her art. "The position at Seneca gives me a chance to participate in life."

Eck, who is also a poet and songwriter, turned back to her creative side when she came up against some of

life's crises.

"A few years ago, the artist side surfaced very strongly. It was a way to focus my energy and passion. And I felt that, if other people shared my passion, it would be a bonus."

Her home and studio on Three Mile Lake is a great source of inspiration for her and she especially finds the garden to be a source of calm.

"I think it keeps me centred," she said. "It is a wonderful location. I have never regretted moving to Muskoka."

Eck has participated in several local art shows with other artists, but says she hasn't yet had time to join the local art community.

"I'm looking forward to meeting the artists who live here. There is so much talent here and I find them to be so friendly and encouraging."

Eck began with watercolours but has since moved on to using oils, acrylics and mixed media. *Fantasy or Truth*, which runs at the gallery until January 27, has examples of the several different types of media that she uses.