

Women's Visions

Exhibit To Display 'Unique Views' Of Female Artists

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LAKELAND — Professional artist Chrissie Tavrides of Lakeland formerly illustrated children's textbooks and now does "a lot of portraits" for customers.

This week she hopes to make more people familiar with her name and her work through an exhibit she is preparing for display at the Brandon Cultural Center beginning Saturday.

Tavrides is a member of "Women's Visions," 11 artists who banded together several months ago to form a group "whose works reflect a unique approach to life and art."

"We all knew each other and worked

together at Arts on the Park and the Lakeland Art Guild," Tavrides said. "We wanted to get together with somebody we could work with and talk things over with."

"We get together to help each other and share ideas and things," said member Judith Schile. Group members critique each other's work, share information on upcoming shows and places to display works, and share in the cost of materials, Schile said.

"It helps to have another artist point out things about your work," she said.

The artists' mediums include weaving, wood carving, drawings, prints and paintings. Each artist will have five or six

works at the show in Brandon which will be on display through Oct. 3.

The Brandon show will be the artists' first organized exhibit, and future showings include an exhibit at Arts on the Park in November, and at Polk Community College in the spring.

"Women's Visions" tries to meet once a month to share ideas, and sometimes has guest speakers to discuss marketing their work. Membership to the group "is by invitation only," Schile said, in an effort to keep the group at a small size.

"We want to keep away from being an art club. We didn't want to get involved with all the paperwork and such," she said.

The members hope to obtain exposure for themselves and their works through the shows already scheduled, and plan to have additional shows in the area.

In addition to displaying their works in Brandon, "Most of the work will be for sale," Tavrides said.

To coincide with the exhibit, the Brandon Cultural Center Civic Association is planning a fashion show and reception for Saturday.

All of the activities are free and open to the public. The reception will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the center.

The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. It is located on South Parsons Avenue, south of Route 60.