

Artist captures NYC street life

Yonkers exhibition reveals painter's eye for familiar scenes

Ernie Garcia
The Journal News

YONKERS — A downtown exhibition celebrates elevated subway tracks winding through New York City's outer boroughs, without the deafening din of passing trains.

Starting Saturday, the Hudson River Gallery and Conservators will exhibit 28 works by urban painter Daniel Hauben, whose show depicts street scenes from Manhattan, the Bronx and other parts of New York City. Hauben's works capture sidewalk panoramas that he mostly painted between 1995 and this year.

"He paints life," gallery co-owner Helmut Zitzwitz said, noting how

New York City's quirky street personalities sometimes put themselves into Hauben's work while he's painting in the streets. "Some bum will ask: 'Can I be in your painting?' and he says sure, and the bum will come back every day."

There is only one person who appears to be a vagrant in Hauben's works. Other works depict life along streets familiar to many, such as Broadway in upper Manhattan near the bridge to the Bronx or the Yankee Stadium stop of the 4 train at 161st Street and River Avenue.

Helmut Zitzwitz said that Hauben's paintings, though recent, are historical artifacts because New York City is constantly changing. Indeed, his paintings with the old Yankee Stadium will soon be outdated.

"Many of these scenes will change," he said. "In 50 years, you won't see them."

Westchester residents who ride

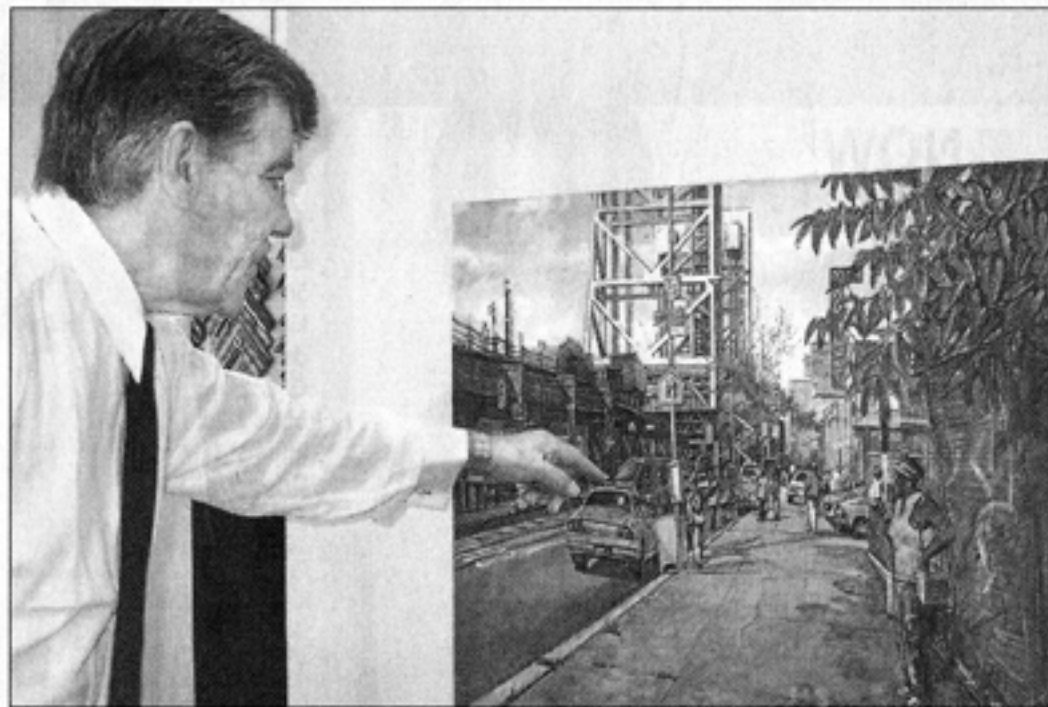
the 2 and 5 trains through the Bronx to Manhattan are already familiar with Hauben's work.

Last year New York City's transit authority commissioned Hauben to create six stained glass windows for the Freeman Street Station at Freeman Street and Southern Boulevard in the Bronx. Hauben memorialized his interest in elevated subway tracks with images of local Bronx streets set in the glass.

Hauben's latest commission is for Bronx Community College, where he will create 41 paintings depicting life in the Bronx.

One example of Hauben's glass work, "Banana Blossom," is included in the Hudson River Gallery's show, with a reception from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The gallery is located at 86 Main St. on the third floor.

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Ernie Garcia/The Journal News
Helmut Zitzwitz, co-owner of the Hudson River Gallery and Conservators in Yonkers, points out a detail in a painting by Daniel Hauben, whose works will go on display at the gallery on Saturday.