



Gazette Bryan Bullock

[Local artist captures the color of the county](#)

Lewis Center artist Linda Wesner — a 35-year resident of Delaware County — was inspired by a detour along Hollenback Road to create the exhibit “Roads Less Traveled: Colored Pencil Landscapes” on display at The Art Loft, 59 1/2 N. Sandusky St., until Oct. 31.

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Staff Writer

Like other drivers, when Linda Wesner found a section of Lewis Center Road closed, she took a alternate route to her destination. Some might consider the detour a headache, but Wesner found the journey off the beaten path to be full of artistic inspiration.

Driving along Hollenback Road, Wesner, 58, spied a pastoral landscape she never noticed before. She was so moved, Wesner stopped her car, got out her compact digital camera and took a photograph.

“It was a perfect morning, that end of summer light. In front of a barn, the sun was hitting hydrangea in bloom just right — it was all so static,” Wesner said.

She used the reference photo of the scene to create a colored pencil drawing entitled “Barn in Waiting.” This piece, along with Wesner’s other images of overlooked settings,

can be seen at her exhibit “Roads Less Traveled: Colored Pencil Landscapes” on display at The Art Loft, 59 1/2 N. Sandusky St., until Oct. 31.

Wesner, a nationally-exhibited artist with 35 years of experience, has lived in various parts of the country but has called Lewis Center home for the last six. A number of her pieces in the exhibit highlight locations in Lewis Center and various parts of the county.

“What I really find inspiring about Delaware County is the flat expanse of fields. I really wanted to capture that,” Wesner said.

She takes great time and care to create her colored pencil drawings, applying layer after layer of color to render realistic light, shadow and texture.

“I use reference photographs, but that just gives me the information. I have to decide how to interpret that, like what things I really want people to notice in the work,” Wesner said.

“Number Five Gooding School” was a piece she called a “real challenge.” The drawing was based on a poor quality black-and-white photograph of a school building taken in southern Delaware County during the early 1900’s. Wesner decided to impart a rose hue to the small school and a dark, murky glow to the sky and field surrounding it; she softly wrote the names of the children on the school’s roster upon the field.

The school in the drawing was torn down long ago, but a number of Wesner’s other images showcase scenes still familiar to observant area residents.

“Looking at them gets people thinking about what is going on around them,” she said.

During the short time Wesner has lived in the county, she has already seen plenty of orange barrels and incoming development. She said people should savor the area’s rural character while it lasts.

“Pay attention because our county is one of the fastest growing in the country so it might be gone soon,” Wesner said.

The Art Loft is open 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Wesner will lead a one-day workshop, “Introduction to Colored Pencil Landscapes” on Nov. 7. For more information on this exhibition and others at the gallery call 740-417-4319 or visit [artloft59.com](http://artloft59.com).

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