



California artist Salvatore Pecoraro stands beside some of his "365 Skies." Each foot square panel

represents the sky during one day of the year. Chris Cassatt photo.

Pecoraro's "365 Skies" will stagger the mind

In a scene from the play "The Picnic" by William Inge, while two of the characters stand entranced by a beautiful sunset, one whispers to the other, "If you painted that in a picture, no one'd believe you." California artist Salvatore

Pecoraro has not only painted sunsets, but rainbows, storm clouds, sunrises and just plain blue sky with such sensitivity and inspiration that his current exhibition at the Gargoyle Gallery, Inc. will send your spirits soaring.

to control the flow of paint, has enabled the artist to create hundreds of different sky paintings with a subtlety that carries each work beyond the stark realism of the photograph into the excitement of the imagination.

When viewed as a whole, the impact of "365 Skies" is staggering.

Other works in the show (all 30 titled simply by the date they were done) explore the added dimensions of artificial light and 3-D effects. In some of his paintings, Pecoraro has cut a long neat slit through the canvas and lit it from behind with colored neon. In another, a molded sheet of styrene is attached to the flat canvas, creating a startling tactile effect.

But the dominant themes of light and color run through all of Pecoraro's work, and with these he achieves a brilliance in his paintings sometimes reminiscent of Turner.

Also included in the exhibit are

two Pecoraro sculptures, both constructed of cast resin and illuminated from beneath by a lighted base. Here the artist has employed an etching plate as one side of the mold so that the etching itself is reflected in the translucence of the finished sculpture.

Prior to this exhibit, the 39 year old Pecoraro has had showings of "365 Skies" at La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art in California and the Oakland Museum of Art, as well as several one-man exhibitions throughout California.

All in all, this could be one of Aspen's most exciting shows of the summer. In fact, you won't even mind going indoors for this one because when you see Pecoraro's skies you'll forget where you are.

The exhibit runs now through Sept 6 at the Gargoyle, 514 E. Hyman. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 to 5:30 and Saturday 10 to 3:30.

—Paula Childs

Perhaps the most impressive painting in this artist's first Aspen show is "365 Skies," a single work consisting of 365 one foot square, vacuum-formed styrene panels covering four separate walls in the gallery.

Taken from photographs, each panel is a separate airbrush painting of the sky, one for each of the 365 days of 1970, when Pecoraro worked on this project.

The airbrush technique, a highly sophisticated method of spray painting using an air compressor