

Pecoraro exhibit uses light, Plexiglas

Prismatic constructions by Salvatore Pecoraro, combining the elements of light, paint and Plexiglas, will go on exhibit Saturday at the Rubicon Gallery, 398 Main St., Los Altos. The exhibit will continue through June 28.

According to Paul Klein of Rubicon, Pecoraro has been fascinated with the interaction of light on a flat surface in his works for several years. Klein said these latest works, constructions in which the interaction of all three dimensions is paramount, make strong use of lines and edges reflecting on a flat background covered with soft gradations of color.

The background color is air-brushed, creating a prismatic effect as it changes from top to bottom. A transparent plexiglass shelf cuts into the canvas on a flat horizontal plane about two-thirds of the way from the top. Resting on the shelf are one or two pieces of painted plexiglass that lie at an angle to the vertical background. A clear sheet of plexiglass covers the painted ones and might have a diagonal line or a frosted surface etched into the plexiglass creating a geometric shape. Every edge, angle or interior line interacts with the light source from above, passes through the plexiglass shelf and casts a shadow

on the colored surface behind.

Klein said that changes in the light source or the placement of the components will affect the works. In addition, as the light changes, the colors in the piece interact with one another and change.

Klein noted that Pecoraro's colors move subtly through the range of primary colors as in a rainbow or set up sharp contrasting tones. One piece begins with a violet edge on the top and moves through the color until it reaches a strip of yellow on the lower edge. On the shelf rest one pink panel and one orange panel, each with a triangular shape etched in it. Another piece isolates a bright green as it goes through its shades and turns into a bright, deep blue.

Pecoraro teaches printmaking, drawing and painting at De Anza College, Cupertino. He has exhibited widely in California and Colorado.

His piece, "365 Skies," was shown at de Saisset Art Gallery, Santa Clara, in 1974. He also has had exhibits at the Oakland Museum, the Richmond Art Center and the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art. He is scheduled to have a major exhibit next year at the San Jose Museum of Art.