

Carroll County Composite

Paper landscape christened tonight at Delphi Library

By KATHY MATTER
Journal and Courier

It's called *Carroll County Composite*, and Terry Lacy's handmade paper landscape is a composite of many things from ideas and feelings to colors and fibers.

Filling the new addition to the Delphi Public Library with color, the artwork created by Lacy with a Tippecanoe Arts Federation grant is the guest of honor at a public reception tonight to mark its arrival there.

For the past 12 years of his artistic career Lacy has expressed himself in handmade paper, subtly manipulating, layering and coloring paper pulp to create landscapes and other images. The rich farmlands of Carroll County that surround his rural studio have long influenced his work and seemed the most appropriate subject for a piece destined to find a permanent home in the county's library.

Inspired by the patchwork-quilt look of farmland in the early spring, by horizon lines stretching into infinity, by big sky filled with puffy clouds, Lacy has attempted to capture all these elements in his composite.

"It's not one specific view or place; it's a combination of elements," Lacy says. It's open areas. It's clumps of woods. It's the stripes of color you see as different crops grow in adjacent fields.

"I think about these differ-

ent qualities and combine them into one piece."

Lacy's landscape even goes below ground, and he refers to a dark swath running across the bottom of the work as a soil profile. Laminated into the paper there are bits of corn shucks, some cut into the shape of arrowheads and artifacts that reflect past societies.

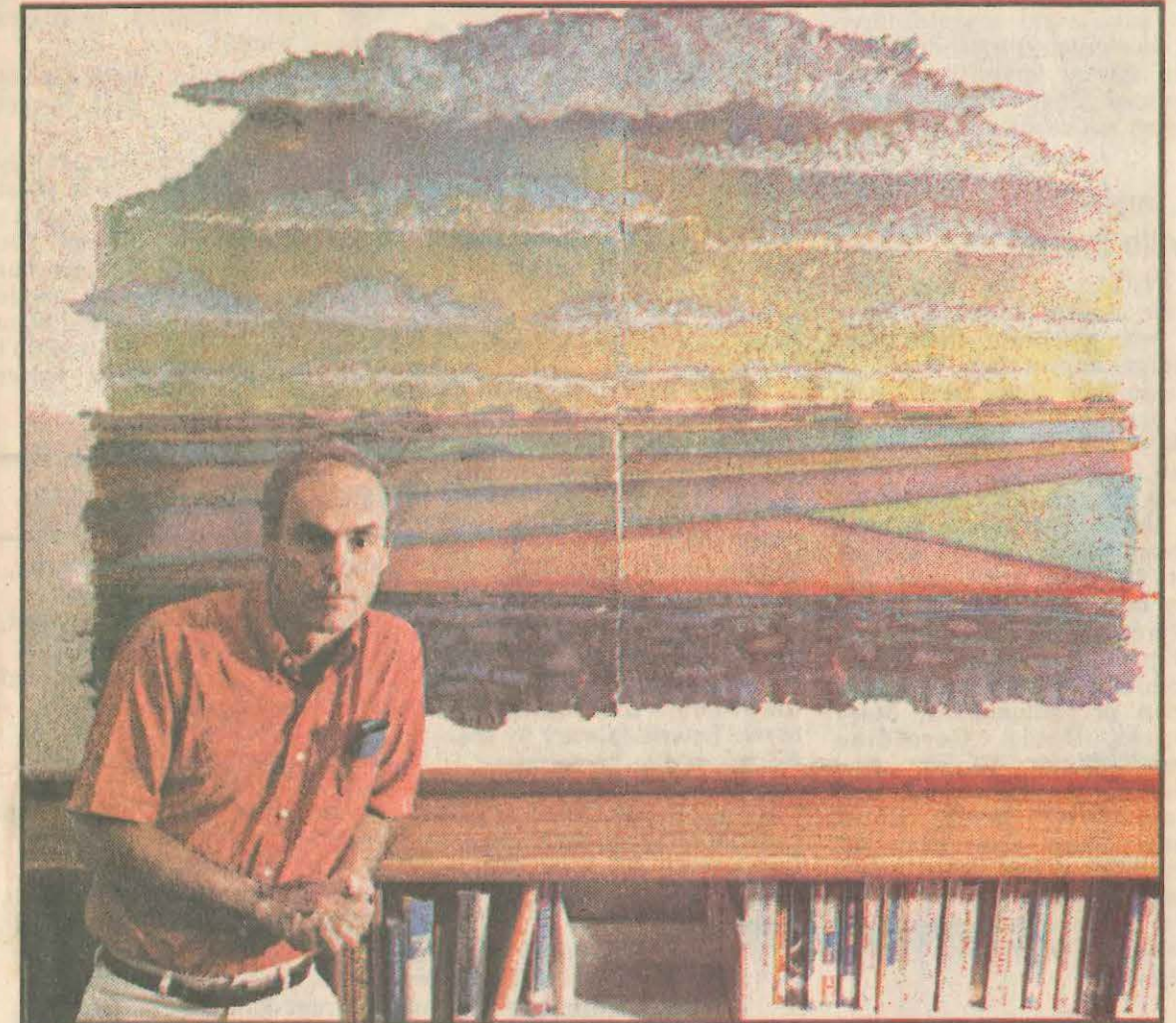
Embossed into the horizon line are the outlines of tiny houses and buildings that seem to be almost overwhelmed by the land and sky around them.

Lacy's vivid use of color — brick reds, purples, grass greens, limes and sky blues — adds a sense of drama. Oddly enough the piece started out as a wet mound of white paper pulp. Once the free-form paper base was created Lacy began the process of adding many thin layers of paper pulp to achieve special

IF YOU GO

A reception for Terry Lacy and *Carroll County Composite* begins at 7 p.m. today at the Delphi Public Library, one block north of the downtown stop light on Ind. 25.

At 7:30 p.m. Lacy will give a slide presentation documenting the production of his handmade paper work.



By Darcy Chang/Journal and Courier

Terry Lacy's sculpture *Carroll County Composite* adds a splash of color to the recent addition to the Delphi Public Library.

effects and color modulations.

Through manipulation the clouds seem to almost float out of the piece, and the crumbly edges of the hand-formed paper suggest the texture of farm soil.

"I want to take advantage of the character of paper pulp and what paper pulp can do" to suggest a landscape, Lacy says.

"You can form paper to follow the shape or emphasize the quality of a cloud, or you can feather it off to delicately emphasize certain qualities — the horizon line coming off, the crustiness of the soil."

Lacy's piece is the first of two artworks to grace the 1½-year-old addition to the Delphi Library. Stained-glass artist Mary Sixby has received an Indiana Arts Commission grant to design and build two triangular windows for the mezzanine of the addition.

Architecturally the 1904 library is an art work too. Marty Miller, director of the library, says the community raised \$857,000 without a bond issue to refurbish the old building and triple the library's space through the addition.

Handsomely upholstered wingback chairs set among huge oak columns greet visitors to the redesigned library. A huge carved oak circulation desk is the focal point of the 1904 section, and oak woodwork dominates the new section as well.

The architecture, the emphasis on design and inclusion of fine artwork is all part of Miller's philosophy for the library.

"Although we're heavily focused on information," she says, "we also see ourselves as a cultural center for the community."