

Exhibit offers 'Letters from Home'

By Ryan Renfrow
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

The Scott & White Smith Art Gallery will present the military themed exhibit "Letters from Home" by artist Lynn Noelle Rushton during a ceremony Wednesday.

Col. Casper Jones III, commander of Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center on Fort Hood, along with members of the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment, will be at the gallery for the formal opening at 10 a.m. in the main Scott & White building at 2401 S. 31st St. in Temple.

"Letters from Home" is a series of oil paintings by Ms. Rushton that features actual men and women in the military at Fort Hood.

"We have all these old images of World War II," Ms. Rushton said. "There is nothing wrong with looking to the past, but we have people now who are also representing us."

In fact, Ms. Rushton has an exhibit called "Love Letters" that features soldiers from World War II reading letters from home in their barracks. It was inspired by her own family members.

Once that exhibit came across the eyes of Smith curator Jackie Cicora, she decided to make an exception to the unofficial rule of not having an exhibit with a theme.

Since the gallery is located in the backyard of Fort Hood, Ms. Cicora hoped Ms. Rushton could somehow incorporate the military base into her work.

Ms. Rushton took it one step further and visited Fort



"Welcome Home" (above) and "Solitaire" (right) are part of the exhibit "Letters from Home" by artist Lynn Noelle Rushton, which will be on display starting Wednesday in the Smith Art Gallery at Scott & White Memorial Hospital.

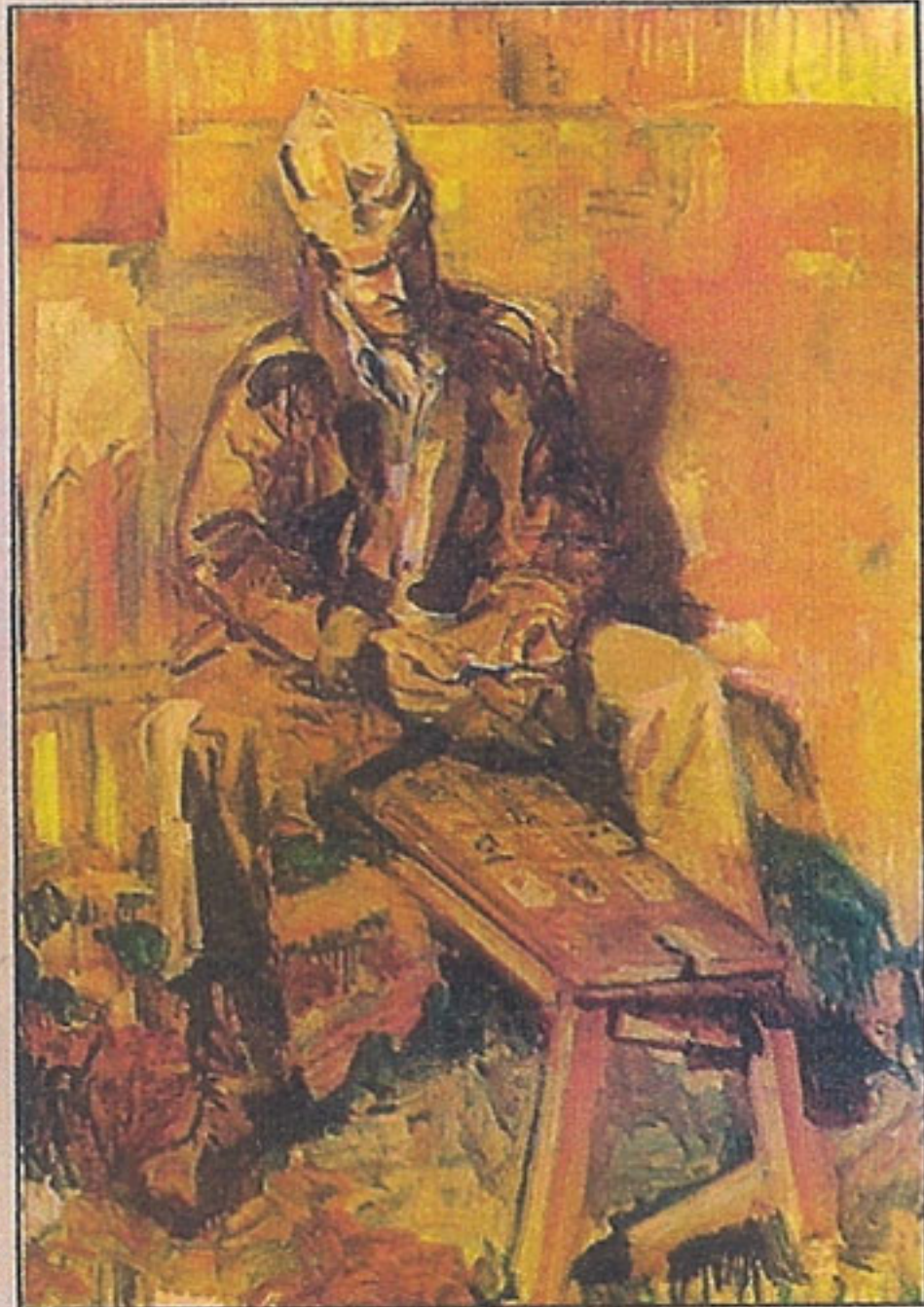
Hood the day soldiers returned after 16 months of active duty.

It was during this homecoming that she was able to sketch and interview the men and women in their military environment.

Instead of pictures of war, the gallery features what Ms. Rushton calls "painted stories" of the soldiers, their families and their homecom-

ing as they embraced their families or waited for loved ones to show up. The artist also asked some of her subjects to describe what home meant to them.

"I was excited. It was a refreshing experience for me," said Ms. Rushton. "You hear all the news and facts about the war and sometimes you forget there is this human side to it, too."



Ms. Rushton has won numerous awards for her work with oils, acrylic and the use of the ancient hot wax medium of encaustic.

The artist has painted in Europe, South America and Asia and currently lives in Dallas, but keeps an art studio in Clifton. Her work is collected throughout the nation and represented in the Wally Workman Gallery

in Austin.

More than 100 people a day are expected to visit the gallery, "which is very popular with patients, staff and visitors to the hospital," Ms. Cicora said.

The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and the exhibit will be on display from Wednesday through March 3.

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