

# Artist depicts soldiers' 'home'

Support for war may be a matter of individual opinion, but Americans' heartfelt support of our soldiers is growing ever stronger.

Even though we do not live in a "military" community such as Killeen, Texas, or Norfolk, Va., numerous families in East Dallas and Lakewood have loved ones serving in all branches of our armed forces. I know firsthand how those soldiers and their families appreciate our support and look forward to a homecoming.

Thoughts of "home" inspired native Eastsider and accomplished artist Lynn Noelle Rushton in her upcoming mixed-media exhibit. Throughout February, up to 100 patients and visitors per day at the Scott & White Hospital's Smith Art Gallery in Temple, Texas, will have the opportunity to view Lynn's interpretation of a soldier's thoughts of home and homecoming.



**CHRIS GRESBACK**

Smith curator Jackie Cicora specifically sought Lynn after seeing "Love Letters," her series of impressionistic paintings depicting WWII soldiers in their barracks reading letters from home.

Inspiration for this series originated from snapshots and letters that belonged to Lynn's great-uncle and cousins who served in World War II.

"These images were of men I loved and whose tenderness and sense of humor helped form my idea of home," she said.

It is not typical that a theme or

topic is suggested to a visiting artist, but with the gallery's proximity to Fort Hood, Ms. Cicora couldn't help herself.

"Many of the people, whether they are patients, visitors or staff, have a spouse or relative deployed," Ms. Cicora said.

While "Love Letters" conjures up imagery from 60-plus years ago, Lynn wanted the new exhibit to include images of present soldiers. To achieve this, she received permission to spend the day sketching soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division as they returned home to Fort Hood last November.

"I was present when the soldiers returned from 16 months of duty. It was during this homecoming that I saw the magic of the word 'home,' when the soldiers crossed a field, searching for the people they loved."

Lynn also visited with the sol-

diers and asked what "home" meant to them. She suggested they write three words to describe home. For some, it was ideals, specific words of places and things, or names of their children. For others, home was any place the Army sent them.

Lynn resides in Forest Hills with her husband and two young sons. She is a graduate of Bryan Adams High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University. She has won numerous awards nationally and has been featured in several publications.

For more information on the Smith Art Gallery, call 254-724-7911 or visit [www.sw.org](http://www.sw.org).

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