



Tribune Photos/BARBARA ALLISON

"Silver Beach Lighthouse" is one of William Jensen's pastels included in an exhibition at Glance Eyewear Gallery in South Bend.

# Lovely landscapes

William Jensen's works are on display at Glance Eyewear Gallery

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## SOUTH BEND

If the plethora of landscapes at the recent regional juried show at the Midwest Museum of American Art is any indication, the traditional genre still enjoys a robust popularity, at least in these parts, despite any attempts by postmodernists to push art in a new direction — or in a thousand new directions, for that matter.

An exhibition of works by landscape artist William Jensen at Glance Eyewear Gallery is an example of art that strives to achieve old goals by depicting the external world rather than the artist's internal workings and by emphasizing craft rather than privileging expression over technique.

In the Glance show, the subjects of Jensen's pastels range from the expected local landmarks — the University of Notre Dame dome, lighthouses at St. Joseph and Michigan City, barns and country meadows — to the relatively exotic — California seaside and cliffs on the island of St. Lucia. The landscapes to which he turns his attention also run the gamut from the boldly generic — a hammock stretched between trees on a picturesque beach — to the very specific, such as a set of steps ascending a dune at New Buffalo. Some of the pictures strike a balance between the two extremes; "Mail Pouch Barn" is a typical Indiana farm scene that is highly specific and at the same time commonplace.

Although Jensen cites Monet and Van Gogh as influences, his style is rarely impressionistic — his color tends toward a straightforward representation of the



"Hammock, St. Thomas" is one of the pastels by Jensen on display at Glance Eyewear Gallery.

## REVIEW

visible spectrum — but sometimes his strokes coalesce into bold blocks of color that merely imply the objects they are meant to represent. In "Lavender Meadow," for example, the foreground is filled with cascades of softly purple wildflowers that are suggested more than explicitly rendered. "Country Creek" also does nice things with its color; its sinuous trees are decked in foliage depicted in deep purple and orange.

The most successful images in the show capture a subtlety of light that is characteristic of the best landscape paintings. Sunlight enters the paintings indirectly, casting the pictures' focal points into a golden glow that is in marked contrast to the flatter ambient light of the scene. In "St. Lucia Island," the sea and clouds form horizontal planes constructed from delicate blue and white strokes, while the sharp

## On exhibit

"Bill Jensen: Pastel Landscapes" continues through Dec. 30 at Glance Eyewear Gallery, 1639 N. Ironwood Drive, South Bend. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call (574) 271-1000.

peaks of mountains pierce the planes, their contours touched with just a hint of sunlight. Similarly, in "Hometown," the quaint village on the far shore of the foreground lake is picked out in sharp afternoon light.

Jensen's pastels aren't going to impress anyone who's looking for innovation or artistic risk-taking, but for those whose tastes run to traditional landscapes rendered sensitively and accurately, Jensen fills the bill.