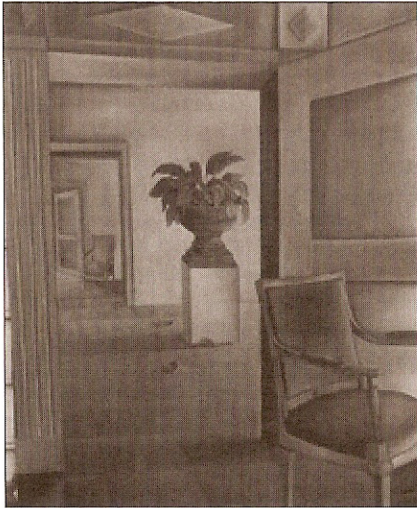


MIMI LANESE EXHIBITS PAINTINGS



Nobody Home, oil on canvas, 1991

When she's not tending to the needs of her countrymen, Belgium's Consul in Norfolk, Virginia, Mimi Verhulst Lanese, wears several artistic hats, all of them well. She is an accomplished classical pianist who has performed in public. She has lectured on the art and history of tapestry. She also paints. Some thirty of her oil paintings are featured in the show "Realism Redefined" at the Visual Arts Center of Portsmouth, Virginia.

Born in Mol, educated in Brussels, and a resident of Virginia Beach for twenty-five years, Mimi Lanese is a self-taught artist who, after one drawing course, immediately started to pick up awards and prizes at the juried shows she entered. She has exhibited throughout Southern Virginia and also has had solo shows at the Arts Club of Washington, D.C., and the Faculty Club of the Catholic University of Leuven, in Belgium.

Many of Lanese's paintings evoke the dreaminess of the Belgian surrealists. One critic describes "delightfully surrealistic interiors [which] blend floating hats, paper airplanes and other subjects ... [and where] routine household objects re-individuated and activated as they interact with dreamlike magic." Another writes of her capacity to "give a sense of wonder to an otherwise normal environment." Speaking of her own work, the artist likes to quote Nietzsche: "There are no facts, only interpretations."