

Varying shades stir memories of past

By Jill McKinley
Art Beat

Enter Ryals Art Gallery and prepare to walk away with a wonderful feeling of nostalgia — remembrance of childhood dreams and aspirations.

That's where Sharon Yamamoto will lead you.

Although she seems to enjoy painting some of her nudes in varying shades of blues or orange or yellow. They each have such expressions, they seem to be thinking of something far away in another time.

In *the Potters House* a young (blue) girl is sitting with an imagined man holding her while a (real) man looks at her. You feel that she is daydreaming of another man while she visits with her friend, who is painted in shades of red and brown. There is a moon in the sky, as there often is in Yamamoto's paintings.

One painting I especially liked was *Portrait of the Sky*. There are eyes, nose and a mouth set into the clouds and

above them is a moon with reflected light all around it in the clouds, almost as if it were as bright as the sun. How many times have we seen faces in the clouds and nights almost as bright as day.

Often in her paintings, there are animals that sometimes seem to be subject matter and sometimes seem to have been added as an afterthought to fit into some space.

In *Sunrise Voyage* a black cat sits in the end of a small boat which is almost too small for its passenger — a girl with legs dangling in the water as if for fun and looking back at the rising sun. While she pets her cat, her red hair blows in the wind.

It is a playful, happy scene, one which Yamamoto doubtless, painted after her move to Florida.

Prior to her move to Florida, she lived in London, England, for about 26 years. Some of the paintings in the exhibit are recent and some are from the past.

It is her intent to stimulate personal interpretations by

the viewers. As she has exhibited her paintings and reacted to responses, she believes there is a desire for more intimacy between the viewer and the image. It is obvious this is what her aesthetic formulation does. The expressions on the faces and body language of her nudes just seem to draw you into the spirit of whatever the mood of the painting is.

One painting that is predominantly blue, shows a man, also blue, with pen in hand composing music. The blue sky has several moons in it, perhaps to let us know several days have gone by while he worked. His hair is brilliantly red. We wonder if she studied the blue period of Picasso.

Woman Contemplating Her Shadow leaves you wondering what she is thinking, whereas, *Flying Lesson*, which portrays a blue nude sitting in a tree with a yellow child is an anomaly of the imagination. It is the child who is having the lesson.

There is affection shown between the two, so that you feel it is a mother and child.

Yamamoto says no matter what her art education has been, she likes to make pictures the same way she did as a child — just putting down images as they come without thinking or planning too much. This is the excitement of her painting — it comes from within the soul and is often a result of her own spiritual experience.

She comes close to realism in a painting called *Looking, Listening* A girl in a yellow dress is sprawled in the grass by a pond. A duck looks toward her — here again, an animal/bird is in the picture.

This one must also be a Florida painting, as it takes on a light attitude — colorwise, and the ground is quite flat,



Sunrise Voyage

although she makes an attempt at getting the perspective more or less correct. It is a painting which would add much to most any decor.

Images Beyond Material, the name of her show and it opened on Saturday, March 20.

Ryals Gallery is located at the southwest corner of Palmetto Park Road and A1A in Boca Raton. Parking is available in front and below the building. Phone (561) 393-2461.