

Wilson showcases work of regional art pioneer

BY DUANE BONIFER
LWU COMMUNICATIONS

The first art exhibit of the Lindsey Wilson University era honors one of the school's art pioneers.

Works by Lucretia Chilton Begley of Columbia are on display through Oct. 10 in the gallery that bears her name, the Lucretia C. Begley Art Gallery.

Also on display in the gallery are a half-dozen pieces by Lindsey Wilson alumnus Tristan Roy of Russell Springs, who graduated with a degree in art and history in 2023.

The retrospective is a tribute to Begley's diverse art career, which spans more than 50 years. The show features eight of her paintings and five ceramic pieces. The paintings celebrate the landscape and color of

southcentral Kentucky and the ceramic pieces reflect Begley's observations and impressions of the everyday world.

"There is so much joy to see in her work -- in her paintings, in her ceramic pieces," Lindsey Wilson Performing Arts Director Kristyne Gilbert said.

While curating the exhibit, Gilbert said Begley offered some valuable advice.

"As she told me while we were working together, 'When you are in art, you're going to encounter some things that are difficult. Don't give up, barrel forward and do the best you can,'" Gilbert said. "That's not only good advice for how to approach creating and making

art but it's also good advice for dealing with life's sudden challenges, especially for our students as they begin a new school year."

Begley was first lady of Lindsey Wilson for 20 years, when her husband, John, served as the school's sixth president from 1977-97. In addition to her more than 25 years of voluntary services to Lindsey Wilson, Begley was a public school teacher, served for nine years as an art professor on the Lindsey Wilson faculty and became a well-known regional artist.



Lucretia Begley's acrylic painting of a snowy winter day near Gradyville is one of 13 pieces in "Lucretia Begley Retrospective: A Delicate Expression of the Seasons" on display through Oct. 10 at Lindsey Wilson University in the art gallery named for Begley.

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