

# ART COMMENTARY With Marion Wolberg Weiss

**"ALL IN THE FAMILY" AT ELAINE BENSON** While his works could also be called "painterly," there's a somber theme to go with the silhouetted figures. We are somehow reminded of war ("The Mission" series; the current Iraqi conflict or even the French and Indian War). Other relationships are not as apparent. For

appropriate, even if the viewers may have a hard time relating the specific designation to the art. In the current show at the Elaine Benson Gallery, the relationship is not always obvious, but it really doesn't matter. The works are good, their arrangements artfully executed. And besides, it's fun to figure out the familial connections. The most evident alliances are the pieces by a father-son trio, the Yektas: Manoucher, Nico and Darius. Manoucher is a well-established artist whose techniques (impasto) not only earn him a "painterly" description, but also allow him to express an experience through his aesthetic devices. Thus, his pastel table scenes ("Striped Tablecloth," "Back of a Sunflower") are big, bold and brave images extending beyond the canvases, recalling the act of luscious feasting. His son Nico's tables complement the pieces, one set on a diagonal to show off its design. His furniture is simultaneously simple and complex.

Son Darius views life in a contradictory fashion, his narrative paintings literally full of darkness.

example, there's Priscilla Bowden's paintings, which hang near Mr. Yektas' pieces to good advantage. But her nephew and his wife, Daniel Potter and Marya Ursin, are also exhibiting their attractive ceramics: small works which are functional (ie. pitchers), yet fun to look at.

Speaking of ceramics, there's also the Benson's traditional room devoted to bowls, pitchers and vases, Nancy Robbins' work especially appealing (ie. "Teapot with Copper Blush").

We're assuming that some of the other art are by people whom the Benson Gallery consider like family. This would certainly apply to Robert Dash and Kurt Vonnegut. It's always a pleasure to see Mr. Dash's paintings which are effectively paired with Ms. Bowden's in the same room. While the former's work explicates the abstract quality of the local landscape, Ms. Bowden's fields and pastures are assuming more and more non-objective traits as well.

"All in the Family" will be on view at Bridgehampton's Elaine Benson Gallery until Aug. 23.



figures. We are somehow reminded of war ("The Mission" series; the current Iraqi conflict or even the French and Indian War). Other relationships are not as apparent. For