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**Heather Speer, CONTINUED from Page 35**

viewing her mixed media art. Speer often works on a subtle basis despite her tendency toward bright colors in her paintings. What immediately meets the eye may not be all there is to see. For example, parts of a photograph might draw her, which leads to imagery in a painting, and the photo negative then finds its way into the mixed media build-up on the painting in combination with other elements and symbols. It's a fusion.

But as an artist, she leaves ample room for the viewer to interpret her work. She sets the stage, but she doesn't direct. The meaning you pull from the piece is largely yours — she often represents opposites on the continuum which invites broad interpretation.

"I gravitate toward the energy of things. If it intrigues me or speaks to me, that's what I do. There's a lot of energy in my art and a lot of emotion." This attitude toward her own creative work surely extended into her teaching. It's hard to rigidly program others when you don't rigidly program yourself.

Heather Speer shows a broad range of highly talented work across several mediums. She comfortably knits her artwork together into a creative stream that is constantly flow-



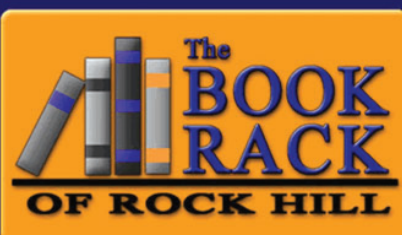
Clockwise at top left: "McCormick Mini-Mart." "Father Winter." "Ghost Chair." "Abstract Ice." "Synapse."

All images provided by Heather Speer.

ing and looking for expansion. It's art to pause at and think about.

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