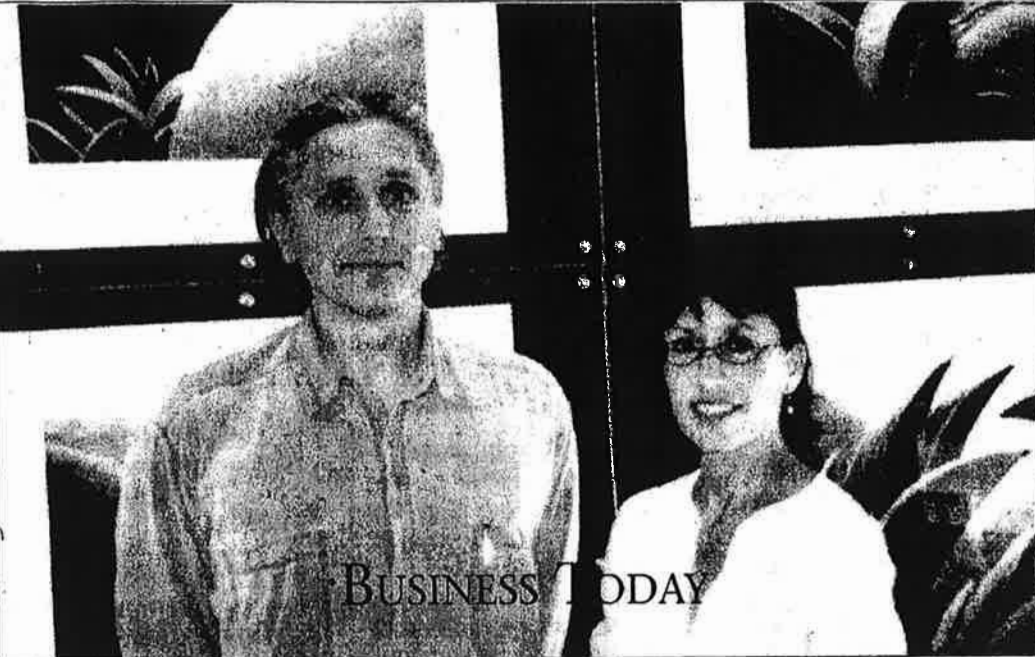


The Sag Harbor Express



Sept. 6, 2001

Paul Domzal has used technology to add an edge to Maria Schon's art.

On the Edge

by Jonathan Peters

In order to stay ahead of the pack, an art gallery needs to remain fresh and see the world from a different angle. This approach is being manifested as art and technology join forces at Edge Media on Madison Street in Sag Harbor.

Owner Paul Domzal, a photographer and architectural renderer, has parlayed his computer knowledge and become an expert printer. "What I've done differently is I've used computers to do images," Domzal said. "That's what inspired my interest in printing."

Currently, at Edge Media, Domzal is featuring the work of local artist Maria Schon. A series of dramatic black and white landscapes grace the wall of the gallery, depicting a quintet of elements, sky, clouds, ocean, mountain and plants. The series is entitled "Tropical Elements" and is based on an area called Macuto in South America, where Schon hails from. Each picture is vividly etched and the lines and detail are intricately drawn. For this series Schon, who normally works with oils, has opted for crayons and charcoal. However, the drawings on the wall are merely prints, because of Domzal's artistic mastery, the copies reverberate with a sheen as if they were just peeled off the artist's easel.

"In this gallery I show my prints of other people's work," Domzal said.

The work at Edge Media is a true collaboration, of the creativity of the artist and the prowess of a printer. By virtue of a six color Roland Printer, Domzal has reproduced Schon's work and retained all the splendor of the original. "It took a lot of tenacity and work to achieve this," Domzal said. "Technology is at a point now where this is possible," he said.

It is a delicate process involved with creating the prints, after Schon draws a picture, a professional photographer takes a picture of it. Once the image is obtained, a transparency is scanned into the computer. At this stage, using the Photoshop program, minor forms of retouch-

ing are performed to remove any surface scratches. Next the calibrating of colors occurs and the final step is the printing process.

Domzal showcases many local artists. Upon seeing Schon's work at her studio in Sagaponack, he knew instantly he wanted to work with her.

"When I saw Maria's work I knew immediately it would make great prints," he said.

Domzal who has a business background and worked previously as a management consultant, always had a yearning to own a creative business. After discovering the Roland Printer two years ago, the wheels began turning and Domzal realized his career he had dreamed of would soon be a reality.

In addition to the black and white prints, Domzal has printed four color prints. The mountains Schon has drawn are so sharp they seem like otherworldly planets. Domzal has used sheets of Plexiglas fastened with nuts, to serve as frames, their industrial look lends to the technological aspect that bridges the overall process. Just as Domzal utilizes a man-made machine to bring art to a new level, Schon too, has broadened her scope through a different realm, film. The artist, studied filmmaking and storyboarding to gain a better understanding of how to achieve the focal point of her work.

It is very much a trompe d'oeuille looking at these prints that appear to be drawings. "I had no idea what something like this would look like," Schon said. "I was really impressed that it could capture the colors and textures to the point that it looks like the original," she concluded.