



# Dutch artist's work enfolds nation's spirit

By James R. Nelson  
News art critic

**Paintings by Alexandra Van Tuyl**, Monty Stabler Galleries, through May 31, a part of the Festival of the Arts Salute To Holland, of which *The Birmingham News* is a sponsor.

Like the land which the Baroness Alexandra Van Tuyl calls home, her paintings are charming and small.

Van Tuyl paints miniature landscapes that capture the low, flat terrain where land and water intermingle with barely perceptible change. The wonderful cloud-filled skies trigger the imagination into seeing such things as ephemeral mountain ranges and billowing sails.

Working with acrylics or with transparent watercolors and using a high-key palette, Van Tuyl captures the silvery, diffused light of the coastal regions of Holland. The landscape of Holland is fascinating in its subtleties. With little obvious contrast or variety, the viewer becomes more aware of the slight modulations of the vistas and graceful order.

Here the hand of man and the touch of nature meet gracefully, allied in the gentle and controlled landscape of Holland. Every ditch, each embankment, all the trees and fields are a marvel of man and nature working together.

As well as depicting the horizontal striations characteristic of low country fields, Van Tuyl also deals with the more intimate subject matter such as "Farm Door" and

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"Farm Window." The most charming work in this genre is her "Tulips in Delftware." A pretty little vase holding the national flower of her country sits on a small window sill under a deep thatched roof.

Van Tuyl employs materials which give texture to her work. This strong tactile quality provides a strength and contrast to her surfaces that belies her relatively elusive use of color.

In her watercolors she uses a heavy, hand made paper with surfaces that vary constantly, surfaces that lend strength to her delicate brushwork.

Holland – The 45<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Festival of Arts  
Alexandra van Tuyl

Reception for the Artist  
Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> 1995  
5 – 8pm

Exhibit from April 21<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>

Monty Stabler Galleries  
1811 – 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Birmingham, Alabama