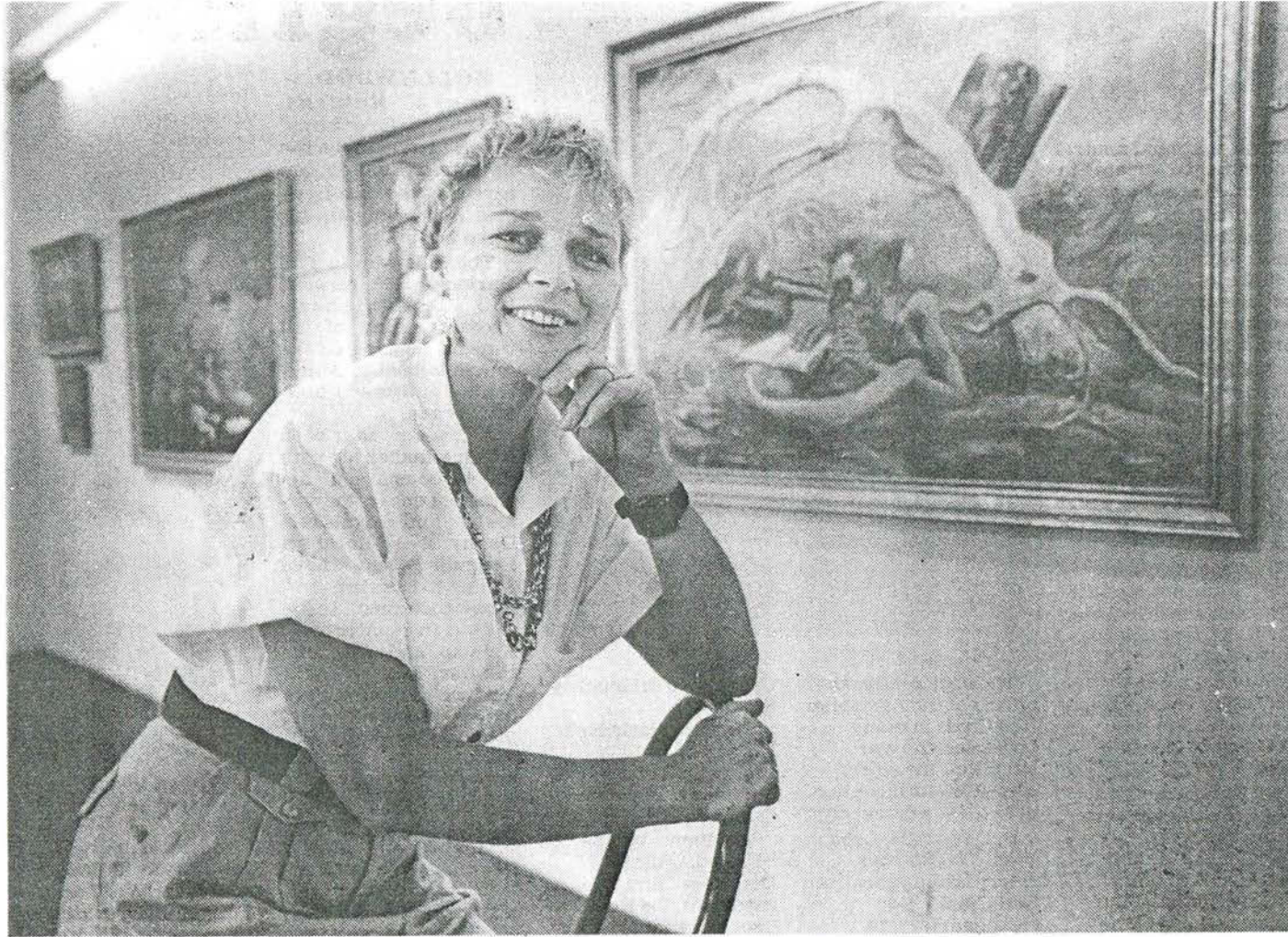


ENTERTAINMENT

Artist brings bush to life



Helen Norton ... captures the colors and the characters of the Outback.

By **MARNEY WHITE**

The colors and characters of the Outback have been brought to life by talented artist Helen Norton in her exhibition at Framed the Darwin Gallery.

Beasts with Beauties is a collection of vivid and striking scenarios.

Born in 1961, Norton spent the first 16 years of her life in Melbourne.

She left at the age of 16 to spend the next 10 years of her life in the outback of South Australia and the Northern Territory.

During this time she lived on stations and in isolated bush camps where she took part in many occupations.

These included professional shooting, fencing and a vast range of station work.

Her busy bush lifestyle left only a limited amount of time for painting, but it was here that she learnt to love the secret beauty of isolation.

In 1986, she came to the North West of Australia where she settled down and has stayed in the same area since then.

Norton draws her

inspiration from her surroundings — Broome, the Kimberleys and the Northern Territory.

Her work displays how she sees the country and its inhabitants.

A little surprising is the fact that Norton has had no formal training and has instead devised her own distinct style through years of personal study involving technique, materials and methods.

She uses a variety of different mediums in many ways to get the spirit and feel that each painting requires.

These include oils, acrylics, watercolor and charcoal.

Conflict

Norton's latest exhibition focuses on the conflict in Australia's history between the white settlers, the Aboriginals and the land.

Norton has won a number of art awards and has held a string of exhibitions since 1988.

The exhibition opened yesterday and will run until May 10.