Art exhibit explores stages of women's lives

By SALI McSHERRY

“One is not born, but rather becomes a woman,” declared French author Simone de Beauvoir in her 1949 work, "the Second Sex."

An upcoming exhibit that explores a woman's voice during the different stages of life through art, "MS MISS MRS 21st Century Expressions of the Second Sex" will be held at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike. It will showcase works by female regional artists, created in the world in which women artists must live.

Curator Alenka Banco of Convivium33 Gallery in Cleveland is the curator of the exhibit. "Similar to Ms. Beauvoir’s "Facts and Myths" in book one of ‘the Second Sex,’ there is a chronicle for woman-kind not unlike stations of the cross, journeying from girlhood, through puberty and sexual initiation, to maturity and old age. The exhibit reveals art as an individual reflection of womanhood,” Ms. Banco said, and includes artists of various ages at different points in life and depicts works produced in a variety of media.

A December 2009 Art News feature, "the Feminist Evolution" by Phoebe Hoban, echoed the words of Ms. Beauvoir and underscores the timeliness of Convivium33 Gallery's latest show. "Museums are exhibiting an increased sensitivity to collecting and presenting works by women - through new acquisitions, solo shows and a stronger focus on artists who were previously neglected. But true gender equality, critics maintain, remains elusive," Ms. Hoban wrote.

Artists featured are: Anna Arnold, Cathie Bleck, Rian Brown, Britanny Campbell, Kristen Cliffel, Liz Maugans, Helene Morse, Angelica Pozza, Bellamy Printz, Chris Seibert, Audra Skuadas, Susan Squires, Barbara Stanczak and Trudy Wiesenberger.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call gallery Director Frank Frate at 440-646-8122.