

City Hall gets some local color

Continued from Page 11

she painted between 1988 and 1993. The bright greens, reds and blues mix in nicely with the purple trimming of the walls, Leary pointed out.

In City Operations Analyst Thomas Hedderick's office, Leary has hung a huge mural that swirls with colored vertical brush strokes just above where Hedderick works on his computer terminal crunching budget figures.

When asked if the painting distracts him, Hedderick replied: "Not at all. I find it relaxing."

Leary received her master's degree of fine arts in painting from the University of Massachusetts in 1989, and has been a professional artist as well as a teacher. Her work has been shown in regional galleries as well as in Boston and Chicago.

The public is invited to view the work at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each Monday through Friday. The works are also available for purchase through the Arts Council.

Color City Hall beautiful

By KEVIN HODGSON

NORTHAMPTON — The dull, white walls surrounding Mayor Mary L. Ford's visiting room are now alive with color thanks to the Northampton Arts Council's move to transform the second floor of City Hall into a showcase for local artists.

First on view: artist Lisa Leary.

Leary, who grew up in the city and is now an art teacher at Northampton High School, has hung about 30 of her figurative-style paintings along the second-floor corridor and in various city offices.

"It's an honor, absolutely," Leary said yesterday, as she walked through the building. Actually, the Arts Council experimented with hanging paintings a year ago, when it displayed the art of some of Leary's students in City Hall.

But when workers began installing the new elevator and City Hall was thrown into turmoil while that machinery was being



Staff photo by David Molnar

"BLACK ROSES" — Lisa Leary, artist and art teacher at Northampton High School, poses yesterday with "Black Roses," one of her paintings on exhibit in Northampton City Hall.

installed, the plan to continue displaying art was delayed, Arts Council Co-coordinator Mary Kasper said.

Now that the elevator is in place, art again dons the walls. And Kasper said Leary is a logical first choice.

"It's very interesting because

she grew up in Northampton and she was the teacher whose kids were already showcased," Kasper said. "We'd really like to turn this into a mini-gallery."

Leary's work is a collage of brilliant colors and images that

Continued on Page 12