

Artist's Fibre Suspensions: 'The Natural Medium For Me'

By PETER WEST.

Daily Times Staff Writer'

Though she is a third-generation Canadian, Aiko Suzuki's art still hints of old Japan and the Orient.

Her fibre suspensions, hung from the ceiling, flow through the art gallery at Chinguacousy Branch Library where they will be on public display beginning tonight.

One piece in particular, made up of brightly colored rows of acrylic fibres, broken by braces on the floor, is reminiscent of a dragon prancing up and down.

Miss Suzuki has brought six of her suspensions to the gallery along with several of her paintings for a show beginning tonight and ending Feb. 27.

The show will be officially opened at 7:30 by Miss Suzuki's brother, Dr. David Suzuki, Canadian scientist and television personality.

Also taking part in the 90-minute official opening will be David Earle and the Toronto Dance Theatre, with whom Miss Suzuki has worked before.

Miss Suzuki, once a painter, now works in polypropylene, a lightweight thermoplastic fibre. She does not use wool since she finds the acrylic fibre have more vibrant colors while the wool tends to be more pastel in tone.

"It's the natural medium for me right now," she said, "I don't know why I stopped painting. I just did."

"Working with the Toronto Dance Theatre, creating sets for them, is what really pulled me out of painting," she said. "You create sculpture. You don't separate the form since it becomes part of the dance. I've found that very satisfying."

Her first one-woman show came in 1967 at the Pollock Gallery in Toronto. This show of paintings came after long studies at workshops in London, Ont., and Toronto.

Later in 1967, she was part of a four-artist show at McMaster University. In 1969 she contributed to a show at Glendon College.

During the years 1969 to 1973, Miss Suzuki began to work designing sets for the Toronto Dance Theatre and started to work almost exclusively in acrylic fibre.

Another piece of Miss Suzuki's work was purchased by the federal government in honor of Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee last year.

Currently, she has two pieces of work, on tour with an exhibition sponsored by the National Arts Gallery. The show is part of the celebration of the centennial year for Japanese Canadians, marking the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Japanese immigrants.

She is waiting to begin work on a \$35,000 commission for the Metro Toronto Library's new building at Yonge and Bloor Streets, once funds for the artwork have been raised through public appeal.

Miss Suzuki's plans for the future are fairly simple. She said this week she will be out looking for a gallery to show her work after show in, Brampton.