

## WHELAN ON THE SCENE

## A lecture, benefits and an art show

By Frank Whelan  
Of The Morning Call

### COAL-REGION ARTIST'S WORKS AT MONSOON GALLERY

Among the additions to South Side Bethlehem's growing arts community is the Monsoon — Art, Sculpture, Frame Gallery at 11 E. Third Street. It opened in May 2003. Its art director, Ranjeet Pawar, was busy this week getting ready for "Our Pennsylvania," a show featuring the works of the late Scranton-area artist Frank Wyso.

Three special events were held at the gallery last week to showcase Wyso's work. The first was a preview held on Wednesday. The second was on Friday and the third, a special event for special guests, was held on Saturday, and included, **Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan**; **Tony Garcia**, artist and custom furniture maker; **James Carroll**, artist and director of the New Arts Program in Kutztown; **Gregory Warrack**, nationally known artist whose works are featured in collections at the Museum of American Folk Art and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; **Jim Viphond**, executive director of the Everhart Museum, Scranton; **Archbishop Stephen Soroka** of Philadelphia; **Charlene Mowers**, executive director for Historic Bethlehem; **Diane LaBelle**, of the Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission, and **Randall Forte**, president of the Lehigh Valley Arts Council. The show will run until Sept. 28.

Wyso (1915-1994) was born Frank Wysochansky in Monessen, Westmoreland County. He was one of 12 children. His father, Joseph, a Ukrainian immigrant and coal miner, moved the family to Blakely, a coal-mining town outside of Scranton. When Wyso was 21 his father died in a mining accident. Dropping out of school in the 7th grade, Wyso later took an art course, his only formal training, at the Murray School of Art in Scranton.

On Wednesday, says Pawar, his gallery played host to 75 people from areas such as Philadelphia, Scranton and New York. For more information, check the Web at [www.MonsoonGalleries.com](http://www.MonsoonGalleries.com) or call 610-866-6600.



Harry Fisher The Morning Call

**COAL MINING** was the theme of most of Frank Wyso's art, says Ranjeet Pawar, owner of Monsoon Art Gallery, Bethlehem, where some of the late artist's drawings and sculpture are on display.