Art

Almost-Photographic Landscapes At Bank

By Jacqueline Sexton

A new, young talent was unveiled at the opening last Sunday of an exhibition of watercolors by Sandra Lothrop at the Chilmark branch of the Martha's Vineyard National Bank. The artist, who is self-taught and who abandoned a career in costume designing in New York City where she worked on such films as "Cotton Club," "The Bride," and Pepsi-Cola commercials, began painting just two years ago. Some of her work is on display at the Edgartown Gallery and at galleries in Acton, Mass., and Keene, N.H.

The 18 works in the present show are all Vineyard scenes and are done with an almost photographic accuracy a little reminiscent of the style of the enormously popular Steve Mills. Many of the paintings of spacious frame houses looking peaceful in sunny summer gardens tend to be fairly monochromatic, while the landscape and flower paintings are done in a wide range of rampant greens from lush to cool.

"One of My Favorites" is a view from the side of the Menemsha house that perches on a hill opposite the Home Port parking lot. "Summer House" is a view of a lofty, shingled house in a wide open setting, the grays and beige of the cascading rock wall in the

Sandra Lothrop watercolor.

foreground balanced by the pink and white accents of wildflowers.

The flower paintings are smaller

and more focused. "Amy's Roses" stand out against a field of intense greens beneath a stormy gray sky much the way the roadside pasture rose in "Hot Pink" stands out against furious greens ranging from a deep dark green to a sunny lime. The green background is again intense in "Great Pond Grasses" in which the browns, tans, and yellows of the marsh grass are meticulously done. "Flower Vase" is in a different mood and, with its formal arrangement of pink and white roses against a deep red background, has a Victorian look.

Ms. Lothrop's skill in achieving atmospheric effects is evident in the winter scenes, "Menemsha Winter" and "Serene Winter." As one viewer said with a shiver, "It's cold."