By Alan G. Artner
Art critic

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TIM LOWLY (Gwenda Jay, 301 W. Superior St.): Lowly is a bless-every-blade-of-grass realist who produces achingly sincere paintings that show concern for humanity.

Several refer to altarpieces, though the artist is broadly ecumenical in his sense of the spiritual, finding it in the everyday much as George Tooker did in the 1950s.

Tooker's medium, tempera, is also Lowly's, and he handles it capably, often in combination with gold leaf.

Sometimes, too, he frames his panels eccentrically or adds objects, such as the many inscribed stones in "For the Missing," a piece dedicated to 99 men, women and children who have disappeared in various parts of the world.

The odd thing—really an undercurrent some viewers might not feel—is how Lowly's earnestness, in combination with his style and references, creates a withdrawn atmosphere not unlike that of Andrew Wyeth's "Christina's World."

One does not know what to make of this, but it is certainly, queasily, there. (Through Saturday.)