

Suspensions

by Aiko Suzuki

By **ROBIN RIGGS**

For those who admire excellence in art, *Suspensions*, a new art exhibit by Aiko Suzuki, opens on Thurs. Feb. 2 at the Art Gallery of the Chinguacousy Branch Library.

Last year Suzuki, who works in everything from synthetic fibres to plastics, won the Queen's Silver Jubilee purchase award; and in December she won a competition and received a \$35,000 i commission to create a work for the New Metro Toronto Library.

"Fibres are becoming accepted as an art form", commented Suzuki. "I avoid the word. Craft - it's much finer than that".

Suzuki has worked extensively with the

Toronto. Dance Theatre. Some members of the theatre will appear at her one-woman show at Chinguacousy Library.

She is intrigued by dance because she is intrigued by the dynamics of line and space.

"It's highly aesthetic, organic - to me it's really fulfilling: the theatre is like heroin, you' can become totally addicted".

The pert, attractive artist, a Japanese Canadian, reflected on her life - from her childhood in various Canadian concentration camps during the war, to her artistic stirrings; and finally her emergence as a respected artist.

"It was incredible how the Japanese were uprooted from their homes and sent to

ghost towns", commented Suzuki, referring to conditions during World War Two.

Despite the drabness of the camps, Aiko, a small child at the time "found it all an adventure." Her family eventually moved to a farm in southern Ontario, where Aiko became interested in painting and later came to Toronto where she studied art with Rick Gorman."

"People say my work reflect my heritage", said Aiko, "but I don't see it. I suppose I do use a lot of Oriental names."

"Suzuki's first exhibit, acrylic on canvas called Release, was shown at the Pollock Gallery in 1967.