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MUSEUMS

All the news that's fit to exhibit

BY JO ANN LEWIS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Every morning in 1996, Manhattan artist Nancy Chunn retrieved her *New York Times*, curled up with the front page, and turned her reactions into art.

She spent the rest of each day working over those front pages, editing them with pastel crayons and rubber stamps, adding images and words. The ironic, occasionally tender but mostly hilarious results can be seen in *Front Pages 1996: One Year of the New York Times* at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

The New York Times liked *Front Pages* so much it bought the drawings from October.

Framed and hung in calendar-like grids, they chronicle a time in which snowstorms, air crashes and hostages in Peru tempered the comedy of an election year.

Progressively more colorful, her reactions often take the form of one-liners, such as "Sign it!" over a story on a proposed international ban on land mines. Or "Best actor in a courtroom

IF YOU GO

► **What:** *Front Pages 1996: One Year of the New York Times* by Nancy Chunn.

► **Where:** Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Monday; Thursdays until 9 p.m.

► **When:** Through March 1.

► **Cost:** The exhibit is free, but there is a suggested donation to the gallery: \$3, adults; \$1, seniors, students; \$5, families; free, members, children under 12.

► **Information:** (202) 639-1700.

► **Book:** *Front Pages* (Rizzoli; \$50), the book, is available at the gallery and in bookstores. It has full-color and an interview with the artist. It and the exhibit is dedicated to all "newspaper readers who talk out loud as they read."



series," under a photograph of O.J. Simpson.

But she can also be respectful: When former congresswoman Barbara Jordan died, Ms. Chunn drew a simple black

frame around the photograph. And when TWA Flight 800 crashed, she shrouded the stories in a veil of deep sky-blue, with little angels falling out of the heavens.

In the election year, she evenhandedly berates both President Clinton and Bob Dole.

Each of her front pages had to be soaked in chemicals to remove the acid and dried between layers of felt before she could make a final version of each drawing.

Ms. Chunn, teaches advanced painting and a "Content in Art" course at the School of Visual Arts in New York.