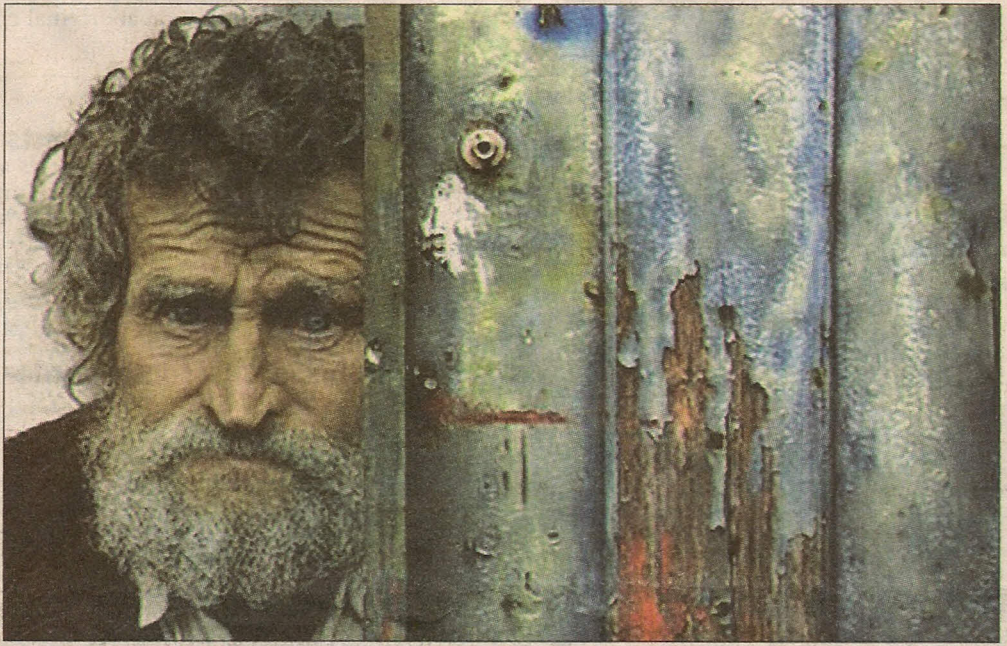
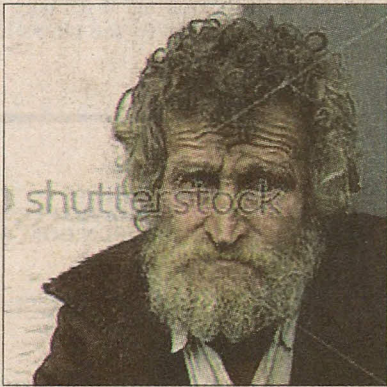


AWARD-WINNING ORIGINAL PAINTING OR DIGITAL MANIPULATION?



THE 'PAINTING' This is the image for which Ottawa artist Sheryl Luxenburg won the prestigious gold medal award from the American Watercolor Society.



THE PHOTOS These two stock photos are from the Shutterstock agency.

The image was lauded for its 'startling' realism — until recent allegations that it was derived from the downloaded photos. If true, the case appears similar to that of a Vancouver artist whose oil paintings are still being sold in Whistler as original work for \$35,000 to \$40,000, but are almost certainly digital photographs printed with an expensive ink-jet printer called a giclee machine. *The Sun's* David Baines, who has been tracking that story, turns his attention today to the Sheryl Luxenburg artwork, which is now under investigation by the American Watercolor Society.