

ART

Fantasy in the Bronx

By VIVIEN RAYNOR

FANTASY versus real life: The first can be seen in the Bronx, at the Lehman College Art Gallery, the second in Westchester, at Krasdale Gallery, in White Plains.

Andrea Arroyo left her native Mexico for New York City in 1983, with the purpose of studying dance with Merce Cunningham but has since changed professions. Either that or Ms. Arroyo has found an avocation in art for, at Lehman, she is showing off her paces as a self-taught painter, having already produced a mural for a Bronx school by way of the Percent for Art Program.

"Mythologies," as the show is called, consists of many small scenes

green. Other departures include faux books, like the one paying tribute to "Alice in Wonderland." This volume stands open to reveal, on one side, a niche papered with text that contains an image of Alice falling and, on the other, a mélange of text, watercolor and collage in which the White Rabbit, his pocketwatch and a disproportionately large letter can be discerned. Ms. Arroyo's imagery is charming, playful and wholesome to a fault — a winning formula these days.

Plans are afoot for the painter to talk about her accomplishment, but time and date have yet to be announced. The number to call for information is (718) 960-8732. Meanwhile, viewers may look forward to the gallery reception scheduled for Oct. 25, from 5 to 7 P.M. The show itself continues through Dec. 16.

A dancer arrives from Mexico and changes professions.

featuring a nymph in different roles. Here, she is a mermaid served up as part of a sushi meal, complete with chopsticks, there she is Daphne metamorphosing into a tree. Elsewhere she plays the daughters of Lot, one a redhead, the other with purple tresses, and both bearing down on their father for nefarious purposes.

But as Eve or Lilith, the subject is the same demure little nude with rubbery limbs — an archetype whose setting can be water built up in clay or plaster, landscape similarly embossed with trees or just sky. The atmosphere is always idyllic. Colors are bright and, except where they are embellished with low relief, the surfaces are smooth; frames are painted and some appear to be hand carved. In addition to biblical stories and pagan myths, Ms. Arroyo draws inspiration from her own life as a dancer, as when she portrays a woman on a sofa contemplating Matisse's "Danse," which hangs behind her at the end of a long room carpeted in



"Mythologies," a series with a nymph in different roles including "Fallen Angel," top right, and "Forbidden Fruit," right, by Andrea Arroyo.

