

arts shorts

Art School Confidential

The teenage brain, despite its newly forming pathways and competing hormones, is superior to an adult's in one distinct way: teenage creativity. At a time when everything is changing, teenagers create art in a way that's uninhibited, emotionally charged and pure. Like many facets of their lives, their art can be overlooked or misunderstood by their peers and even adults, but Maude Kerns Art Center is celebrating their work by holding the 8th Mayor's Teen Art Show.

The exhibit displays work from teenagers 13-18. Thirty-five teens submitted work ranging from pencil drawing portraits to journalistic black and white photography. Mayor Kitty Piercy's choice couldn't have been an easy one to make. While a simple cityscape drawing-intended as an art class lesson on drawing 3-D-isn't visually stunning, it is technically impressive for a 13-year-old art student. The same goes for the Shading 101 pencil portraits that make onlookers marvel when the artist's age and experience is taken into consideration.

This year's winner is *Listen*, a work by 18-year-old Anna Scheri of Wellsprings Friends School. Her eight piece, mixed-media submission is quietly understated, placed in the corner of the gallery. The stretched pieces of canvas hold vivid splashes of color, layered with personal photos and images of nature. "I have a strong connection with nature and deeply appreciate the lines, colors and feel of the beauty of the world around us," Scheri says in her artist's statement. Scheri, who recently began using her own photos in her paintings, is also unconventional in her choice of artist's tools. "My paintings are done without brushes or other artist tools. Instead I paint and create with normal household items." So the next time you pick up a spatula, think of what else it can be used for. The Mayor's Teen Art Show runs at the Maude Kerns through Oct. 5. — *Amanda Burhop*



For an Artist, Dying Young

It takes most artists years to perfect their craftsmanship and be at a level good enough to be shown in a gallery, but for Eric Washburn, seven months was all he needed to become a ceramic prodigy.

"Eric had only been doing ceramics for less than a year, but his pieces were amazing and at a level well above many of the other students," recalls his friend and



Eric Washburn

have in class, and how he was a mentor for other students."

The students and faculty respected him so much that they decided to name their new art gallery after him.

"When we all got together to discuss what the name of the gallery should be, we all decided to name it the Eric Washburn Gallery in Eric's memory," says Stetson.

The Eric Washburn Gallery, in the ceramics studio off the main hall of the UO's School of Architecture and Allied Arts, has housed the exhibits of attending students for over 15 years. In those years, little has been told about his life or his work. For the first time ever, the works of the man for whom the gallery was named will be on display, along with some of his poetry and a plaque honoring his life.

His pottery, which runs from whimsical heads atop teapots to more intricate wood kiln-fired vases, will be shown at the opening for this retrospective on Sunday, Sept. 30, from 4 to 7 pm. The exhibit will remain on display from Oct. 1 to 7 at the Eric Washburn Gallery in the UO's. — *Deanna Utela*

fellow UO art student Hilary Stetson.

When Washburn died in a car crash in his home town in Arkansas in 1991, he left behind a legacy that went beyond just artistic talent.

"Eric had a heart of gold," says his mother, Margaret Washburn. "His friends and teachers have all told me how much of an inspiration and joy he was to



A ceramic plate by Eric Washburn

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