



News staff photo by MELISSA SANDFORD

An acrylic painting submitted by Hayley Barry of Oakmont Regional High School for the GALA Spring Art Show is seen, Wednesday.

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GALA's Spring Art Show set to highlight local creativity

Scores of submissions, diverse range of music coming to PACC this weekend

By MELISSA SANDFORD
NEWS STAFF WRITER

GARDNER — Members of the Gardner Area League of Artists began submitting their work Wednesday for the group's three-day Spring Art Show, which is set to open Friday at the Polish American Citizens Club on Kendall Pond Road.

"We are hoping the event will be well attended. We want folks to come out and have a good time enjoying the art and music. It is a nice chance for

'You don't have to go to Boston for fine art. We have it right here.'

— Brian Beaudoin

them to get to know their neighbors in the art community around us," said Kevin Bird, a local artist and GALA's

chairman.

Nearly 120 pieces of artwork will be on display from Friday through Sunday, representing an array of local artists, including several pieces donated for a silent auction.

Art teacher Brian Beaudoin of Overlook Middle School in Ashburnham said he believes those who attend will be pleasantly surprised by the number of participating artists and the overall selection of work available for viewing.

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News photo by LATRICE COOPER

JoAnne Pellecchia of Winchendon, left, hands over her mixed media piece "SeasonLess Love" to volunteer Joanne Holtje during the art dropoff Wednesday in preparation for GALA's Spring Art Show, which runs Friday through Sunday at the PACC in Gardner.

GALA set for Spring Show

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"For me, seeing the variety of talent and skill in the community is something to look forward to," he said. "You don't have to go to Boston for fine art. We have it right here."

A special exhibit has also been incorporated into the annual event in an effort to showcase the up-and-coming talent of local high school seniors.

"They are excited to be a part of the show and for the opportunity to exhibit and build up their resumes for school," said Gregory Barry, an art teacher at Oakmont Regional High School.

Mr. Barry was on hand during Wednesday's site setup to drop off pieces submitted by students Hayley Barry and Meghan Garven. Both students, he said, have already been accepted to the Savannah College of Art Design in Georgia and Pratt Institute in New York, respectively.

According to organizers, live music has become an important element of the art show, from folk and jazz to pop, rock and electric

Local students taking part in Youth Art Month at Worcester Art Museum

Art students from Central Massachusetts have been selected to display their creative works at the Worcester Art Museum during the month of March.

This multimedia exhibit is sponsored by the Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA) as part of Youth Art Month, a national celebration to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for the quality art programs in Massachusetts' schools.

The students from Gardner High School, under the direction of Susan Gallagher, representing the city in this year's exhibit are Lorelei Dietz, Dan Espinoza, Cassandra Pillsbury, Jeongki Kim and Ryan Barba.

Teen Night, a reception for high school student participants, will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. tonight. This will give the older art students an opportunity to meet contemporaries and discuss career possibilities.

The Youth Art Month Exhibit will be on display through March 27. Admission is free in the Higgins Education wing of the Worcester Art Museum, which will be open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Art teachers from 35 cities and towns have volunteered their time to make this event possible.

bluegrass. At present, 16 musical acts have been scheduled to take the stage. For additional informa-

tion, visit www.galagardner.org. msandford@thegardnernews.com