

Teen art graces Northampton center



Brace G. Thompson, 18, of Northampton straightens his playing card portraits at the Northampton Center for the Arts Building yesterday in preparation for the Art Fest, which begins tomorrow at the center in Northampton.

Staff photo by MIEKE ZUIDERWEG

A weeklong exhibit of the artwork of Northampton High students starts tomorrow.

By NANCY H. GONTER
ngonter@repub.com

NORTHAMPTON — On a wall at the Northampton Center for the Arts, 18-year-old Brace G. Thompson's face hangs in many colors.

The colorful series of self-portraits, rendered on a background of ink wash with chalk pastels, show Thompson's scared and concerned face.

"The brightness is not necessarily happy. I wanted people to determine the mood I'm in. It's reflective of college and going somewhere new," said Thompson, a senior at Northampton High School who will attend Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., in the fall.

Thompson's self-portraits are part of a weeklong exhibit of the artwork of Northampton High students that starts tomorrow at the center on South Street.

The art show opening is at 6 p.m. Friday and will include a performance of high school talent at 7 p.m. Demonstrations of music, singing, dancing, harp-

Art: Teens' work featured

Continued from Page B1

Cooper Union School of Art in New York City in the fall.

Thompson said he is happy that Northampton High students have the opportunity to exhibit their work.

"It's pretty cool that teenagers can show their work even though no one is going to buy it and we're not going to get famous. It's just to show our talent," he said.

Although the show is typically prepared and hung by Northampton High's three art teachers, this year the 11 students taking honors art classes are doing the work. Northampton teachers are "working to rule" to protest stalled contract talks.

Rina L. Goldfield, 17, a senior, said her teacher worked with her to mat their work and prepare name tags.

"I support the teachers in what they are protesting. I'm not resentful for what they are doing. I'm happy to step up to the plate," Goldfield said.

"I'm really committed to the show. It's important that we have it and show as many people's work as we can," said Goldfield, who is in the honors art class and plans to attend the

Lucy T. Parker, 16, a junior in the honors art class, yesterday was hanging paintings she did with concentrated watercolors on pieces of plywood. The paintings show both the grain of the wood and images on a theme of fairy tales and Biblical and mythical stories. She is also exhibiting self-portraits.

"I think this is cool. I enjoyed coming to the show when I didn't have my own art thing. I'm a little afraid of people's judgments," Parker said.

Please see Art, Page B3