



Staff photos by MIEKE ZUIDERWEG

At left, Ciara Kosior, 17, a senior at Northampton High School, is seen through the mouth of George Washington as part of her untitled dream series that she was setting up at the Northampton Center for the Arts in preparation of the May 12 Art Walk in Northampton. At right, Maseo Davis, 17, also a senior, does a balancing act while putting up his acrylic and graphite pieces at the center.

Student art claims place in exhibit

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NORTHAMPTON – Ghosts, braided hair, dreams as a language, friends as super heroes, a moment in time ... these are some of the themes explored by Northampton High School art students who will join other artists to display their work in 21 galleries and shops in Northampton's Arts Night Out Friday.

The portfolios of junior and senior honors art students will be on view at the Northampton Center for the Arts, 17 New South St. and the work of students in other art classes will be shown at the A.P.E. Gallery in Thorne's Marketplace, 150 Main St.

The student exhibitions are

IF YOU GO

Event: Northampton Arts Night Out

Where: Throughout Northampton

When: Friday, 5-8 p.m.

For info: Call (413) 584-7327

curated by Northampton High School art teachers Lisa Leary, Martha McCormick and Lindsay Fogg-Willets.

Leary stood by to answer questions and offer suggestions as students in Honors Art 2 and 4 prepared to hang their work in the two spacious galleries last week. Each of the 17 students had created a series of 10 related paintings, drawings, sculptures or mixed media pieces.

Senior Rachel Prouty of Leeds tried to connect the "idea of trees, stars and water" in large acrylic paintings. "I re-use images of trees and constellations over and over again. I shift them around," she said.

Maseo Davis, also a senior, created two series of five pieces each. "I did figure paintings

to tray a different emotion in each painting based on composition and use of color."

His 25-minute movie, which does not relate to his paintings, is a romantic comedy based on a graphic novel called "Blankets."

Davis summarizes his adaptation of the book by saying: "A kid is depressed, falls in love, breaks up, gets over it. It's basic boy meets girl." Davis used the graphic novel as a basis for his film because "it did a good job of depicting everyday life while keeping it as cliché as we really are. A big part of life is as cheesy as we see it in the movies."

Leary moved from one gallery to the other watching the students bring parts together to form a whole. "I see a lot of individual visions, a lot of different voices that are speaking," she said.

The high school has offered an art show annually since the early 1990s. Leary said that "usually the whole art department is here. But this year we wanted to do a show at Thorne's. It's going to be sold and we don't know if we'll be able to do it there again. This is a