

AWARD-WINNING WORK



Staff photo by BOB STERN

Northampton High School honors art students show the works that won them awards. They are, from left, Lea K. Chiara, 17, Carolyn E. Clayton, 18, and Mariah R. Swanson, all of Northampton.

Student artists win exhibit awards

Northampton's Rina Goldfield is not sure where she will be going to school next year, but she is certain the focus will be art.

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NORTHAMPTON — For High School senior Rina L. Goldfield, art is essential.

"It's like breathing for me," she said this week. "It doesn't make me happy, but I need it to survive. It's primal for me."

Goldfield was one of the school's art students who recently received an award for her art portfolio.

Like many of the other students in art teacher Lisa Leary's honors class, Goldfield started

creating art when she was small. And she is always striving to make her work better.

"I take it very seriously; I'm very critical of myself," she said.

Goldfield is not sure where she will be going to school next year, but she is sure the focus will be art.

"I want to do art with my life," she said. "I don't know the best way to get to that."

Goldfield and three other seniors, Lea K. Chiara, 17, Carolyn E. Clayton, 18, and Mariah R. Swanson, 17, received Gold Key Awards in the Boston Globe

scholastic art exhibition.

Chiara also won a gold key for her photographic portfolio. In a separate contest, she won an award for her entry in the Photographers' Forum's 25th annual college photography contest.

Chiara has also been creating art since she was small. Her mother has a painting hanging in her kitchen of a flower Chiara made when she was 3.

"Art is just another way of understanding my world and understanding myself," she said. "I like it because it's both a way of commenting on the world and a way of learning about the world."

Clayton was inspired by a babysitter with whom she did a lot of drawing.

"I drew horses all of my childhood," she said.

Also a cross-country runner, Clayton said she is torn between focusing on art and running when she goes to college.

All four downplayed the significance of winning.

"It was an honor, but all it meant to me is a group of people liked my work," said Chiara. "It doesn't make me feel like I'm at a higher place than before. I'll still do art, whether or not I won."

The other winners from Northampton High School in the scholastic art contest included Ciara Kosier, a junior, who won honorable mention for a drawing, and Sophie Theroux, a junior, who won a silver key for a still-life painting.