

Student Wins Boston Globe Art Contest

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Editor*

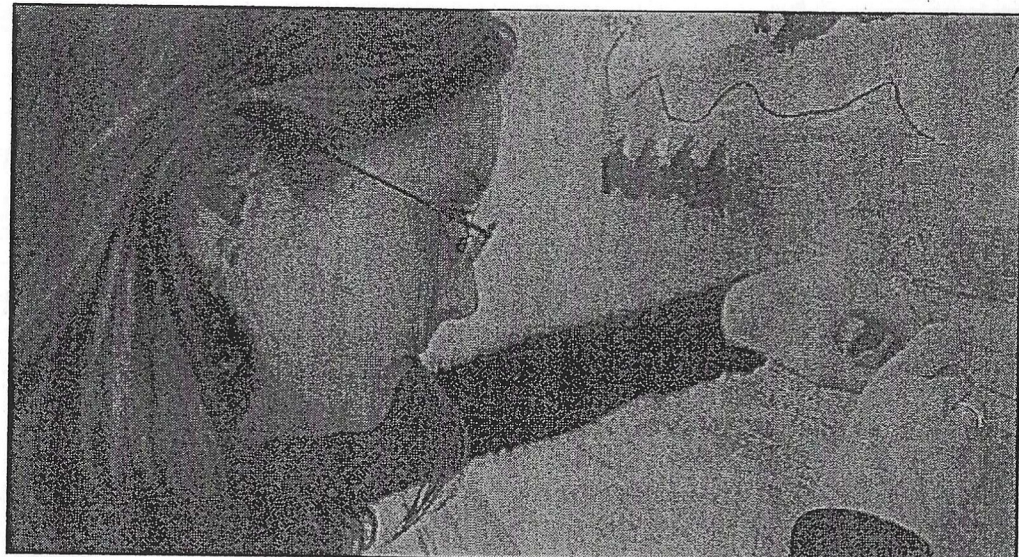
Claire Rayton, a Northampton High School senior and newly developed artist, became the school's first student to win the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award Scholarship last month.

Rayton's portfolio of acrylic self-portraits was one of four out of 620 portfolios picked to win the shared award and the \$1,000 scholarship that comes with it.

"I went into this competition with a grand total of no expectations," Rayton said. "In general I prefer to daydream rather than expect, because then if daydreams come true, I'm much more surprised and therefore excited about the turn of events."

The award is given to four in-state student-artists who will compete for national judging in the spring when five students will be picked to win a \$10,000 prize. Gold and Silver Key awards and Honorable Mentions are also given to students.

Rayton said she has enjoyed art since first grade, but it wasn't until her senior year that she made the time to take the honors art class and find out how far she could go with art.



Yahya Alazrak / Staff Photo

Claire Rayton, a Northampton senior, works on a project in her honors art class.

Honors art teacher Lisa Leary said that she had high expectations for Rayton.

"When I saw a subjective self-portrait of hers was when I realized what she could really do," said Leary. "I did my best to convince her to take honors art II and to take art in college."

Leary was convincing. Rayton said she decided to either major or minor in art in college.

Although Rayton says that she would love to be a professional artist, she says that it is probably not a profession that could support her hobbies, like playing music and riding horses.

But Rayton describes art as something she "can't not do." If art is not her profession, she says, it will be "another really expensive hobby."