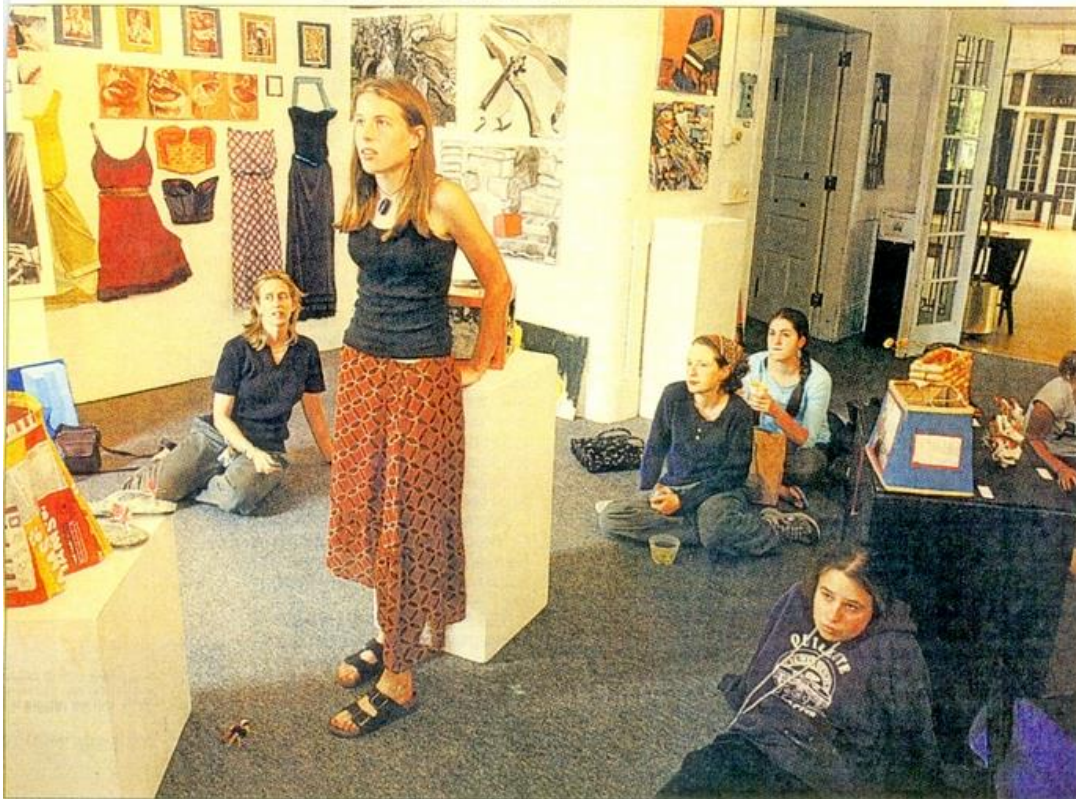


ARTWORK ON DISPLAY



Staff photo by BOB STERN

Carolyn E. Clayton, standing, has her paintings and sculptures critiqued by fellow Northampton High School students at the Northampton Center for the Arts student art show.

Student artists show their work

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NORTHAMPTON - Having his art displayed at the Northampton Center for the Arts makes Northampton High School senior Christopher J. Millette Jr. happy for himself and for his school.

"I think it's a great opportunity to get your name and your work out there, to let people see what you are doing. You get to show what's important to you," said Millette, 18, who will study art at Alfred University in upstate New York starting in the fall.

But the exhibit, which opens today with a reception, 4:30-6:30 p.m., is more than just showing off their work for Millette and

the dozens of other students whose art is exhibited.

"It's help for the school because there's been talk about cutting art programs. It's good for people to see what sort of artwork is being done," Millette said.

Lea K. Chiara, 17, a junior whose art is also being exhibited, agreed.

"It's great publicity. A lot of people will get to look at our work," said Chiara.

Northampton High art teacher Lisa H. Leary said the art show is part of the 15th annual Arts Fest at Northampton High. It also includes a student performances tonight, 7-9, at the Center for the Arts in the Old School Commons on South Street.

Leary said the students' work is top-notch.

"The quality is outstanding," Leary said.

Much of the work exhibited is from students in the Leary's honors arts class. Each have spent many hours working on projects.

Fiona S.G. Cook, 18, a senior who will be going to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the fall, has a variety of art works displayed, with a themes of ambiguity and mystery, and the ghosts of memory.

Cook has been doing art work since she was little, but started to take it seriously when she started an advanced art class last year.

"I found out it's what I love and what I wanted to do all the time," Cook said.

Chiara has also been creating art since she was little. Her mother still has a kindergarten watercolor of flowers up on the wall at home.

At this exhibit, she is showing self portraits as well as a deck of cards she made from collage using her own photographic work.

"Art is just a great way to express yourself. There are so many possibilities to it. It's endless. You don't even had to know what you're doing until your done which is what I like about it," Chiara said.

Millette sees art as a bonus beyond the academic school work he has to do.

"It helps you get through the normal classes. You get to break up your academic work by going to art class," he said.