

Charbonneau festival mixes professional, student artwork

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Free show Sunday showcases student artists from Wilsonville High School



Photo Credit: SPOKESMAN PHOTO: KATE HOOTS - WHS senior Anne-Marie Wieland will display this untitled painting at the Charbonneau Arts Festival this weekend.

Art lovers in the Wilsonville area have a unique opportunity to indulge their passion while supporting art education at the Charbonneau Arts Festival this weekend.

The event kicks off Saturday with an evening of music and art featuring Michael Allen Harrison in concert at the Charbonneau Country Club. The concert features catered hors d'oeuvres, dessert, coffee and tea and no-host wine. Tickets previously were available online; any available tickets will be sold for \$50 at the door.

An art preview and sale will be held before and after the concert, from 3 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.

The festival will continue on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the country club, 32000 SW Charbonneau Drive. Work from professional artists — all types of handcrafted, painted and sculpted art including outdoor art, literary art, music and glass art — will be on display and for sale. Admission is free, and all proceeds from the festival go to benefit the Wilsonville and Canby high school arts programs.

What makes the festival different is that student artists will be displaying their work in a special student art pavilion. WHS art teacher Christopher Shotola-Hardt selected about 30 students to show their work.



Photo Credit: SPOKESMAN PHOTO: KATE HOOTS - Lauren Burns, a WHS sophomore, said it's an honor to be asked to exhibit her art. A painter, she will have a piece on display at the Charbonneau Arts Festival.

“The last few times we’ve done this, I have my students doing demonstrations at the show,” he said. “So they’re basically setting up their easel or their paper at a table. They’re working on pieces and visitors can see how the artists work.”

Although the student artwork is not officially for sale, inquiries are welcome.

“There are always inquiries,” Shotola-Hardt said. “And we have sold work.”

WHS sophomore Lauren Burns is one of the students who will be displaying art at the festival. Paint is her medium, though she is beginning to experiment with charcoal, with a focus on facial expression.

“I’m always excited when people ask to exhibit my art,” she said. “It’s an honor.”

Her classmate Zander Hill said he was certain at least some people would be eager to see his work on display.



Photo Credit: SPOKESMAN PHOTO: KATE HOOTS - WHS sophomore Zander Hill creates line drawings and likes to focus on the small details.

“My family has been nagging me recently about ‘When’s your next art show?’ They’ll be really excited about that,” he said.

Like the other students, Hill credits Shotola-Hardt for pushing him to improve.

“One of the things he goes over a lot with me is getting the viewer’s attention from afar and drawing them into the piece,” he said. “I have a habit of worrying about the tiny things. He helped me pull back.”

Abby Humphrey, a junior, is another artist who focuses on detail. Her preferred method is stippling, and she uses thousands of tiny dots to create intricate portraits that have a vintage feel.

“I got my inspiration through old medical illustrations, mostly Victorian,” she said.

Another artist, junior Marisa Bischel, creates art that’s about as modern as could be. She uses a tablet computer with a paint program to draw figures. Although at a glance she seems to be drawing on paper with a pen, her art is entirely digital. Still, her art has something in common with Humphry’s.

“Most of the stuff I’ve been working on is studies of the human figure,” she said.

The money the WHS art program receives from the show will mostly be used to pay entry fees to a nationwide competition, the Scholastic Art Show, according to Shotola-Hardt.

“It’s because of the Charbonneau Festival that we’re able to do that,” he said.

Anne-Marie Wieland, a senior, will be displaying a large, untitled painting that depicts her brother and that represents her interest in facial expression.

“I believe expressions are universal,” she said. “In this piece ... I’m leaving it open for the viewer to interpret what he’s feeling.”

Wieland said that she appreciates the opportunity to display her work as much as she appreciates the financial gain for WHS’s art program.

“It feels great to know my work is out there to be shared,” she said. “That’s what every artist wants.”



Photo Credit: SUBMITTED PHOTO - This piece is typical of junior Marisa Bischel's digital artwork. She creates her drawings using a tablet and stylus connected to a laptop computer.

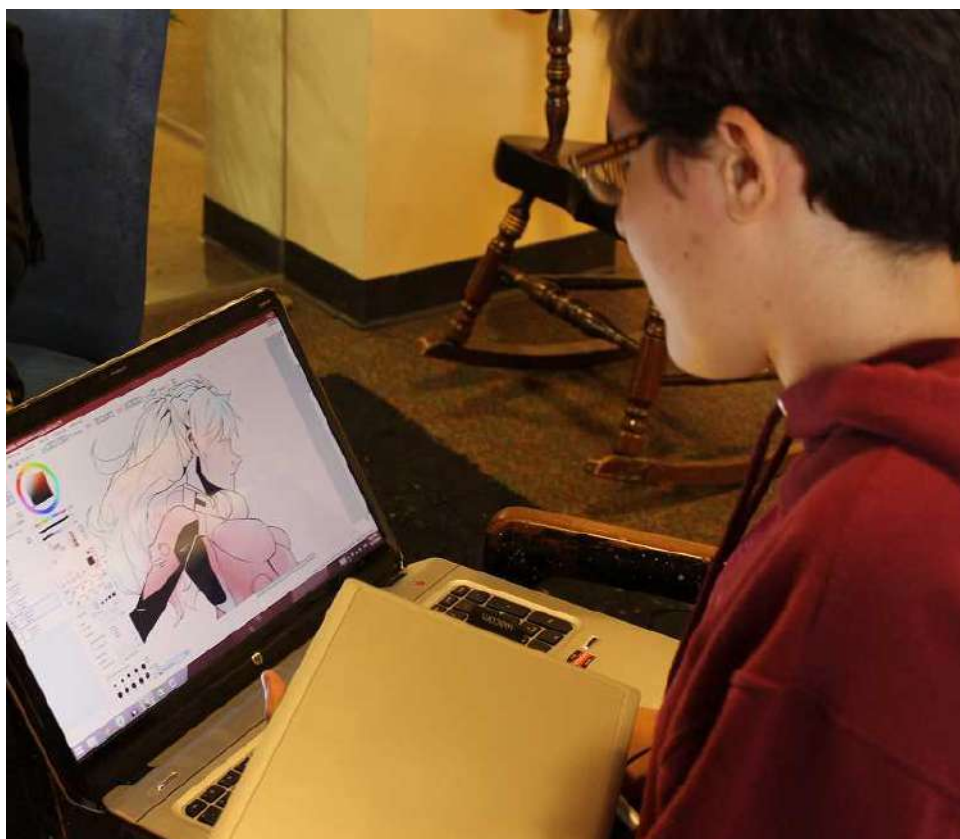


Photo Credit: SPOKESMAN PHOTO: KATE HOOTS - Marisa Bischel's intricate artwork is entirely digital.