

Cape Experience

LIVING • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A colorful array of art

ROYGBIV exhibit features
55
Cape Cod artists

By Jen Ouellette
jouellet@cnc.com

Color and art collide in an explosion of creativity in the interactive ROYGBIV exhibit on display at the Cotuit Center for the Arts through Feb. 7. ROYGBIV stands for the spectrum of color: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

The exhibit, presented by the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod, explores the depth and emotion of the color spectrum through the eyes of 55 artists who live, work and create on Cape Cod.

One of the goals of this exhibit is to introduce these artists to new audiences," said Maggie Van Sciver, Board of Directors president for the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod.

It's a very unique way to see a wide variety of terrific Cape Cod artists that they might otherwise never see," added Van Sciver.

This is the third annual education exhibit presented by the arts organization. The exhibit had over 2,000 visitors in its first year and over 3,000 last year.

"It's our expectation again to be treated by an audience close to 3,000 this year," said Van Sciver.

Van Sciver said a special focus of the annual art exhibit is youngsters and art education. Each of the pieces of art is hung at four feet to engage the younger art viewers.

Over 30 school groups have attended the art exhibit this year ranging from nursery school age to high schoolers.

Michelle Law is an instructor for the Cotuit Center for the Arts and conducts an art workshop for the school groups visiting the exhibit.

Last week a group of four and five-year-olds from Northside Nursery School in Yarmouth Port learned about abstract and realistic art by acting out the paintings and creating their own works of art.

"We talked about color and rhythm. I have a colorful xylophone and I asked them to make a piece of art and then we played each students art," said Law.

Older students sketch some of the artwork or partake in creative writing while examining the different styles and visions of the artists.

"I'm equally excited by the opportunity to introduce students to new art techniques as to introduce the artists to a couple thousand new audience members," said Van Sciver.

"I love that people leave here and they want to see more of the artists' work and when students go home they want to create," she added.



Maggie Van Sciver next to "Molly-Cules" by Sue Beardsley.

Van Sciver calls the method she uses to select artwork for the exhibit "unscientific." "I would know it when I see it," she said about her visits to the artist's galleries and studios.

"I always choose pieces the artist themselves are excited to share," she said.

Pulling community, youngsters and artists together annually for this exhibit is what makes the project so unique, said Van Sciver.

"What's so interesting to me is at very young ages [students] already are excited about a variety of styles of art and they already seem to prefer one individual style over another," she said.

Van Sciver said another goal of the exhibit is to inspire the youngsters to listen to the artist that lives within them.

"How many of you are artists," she asks the group of pre-schoolers and a whole room of hands responds.

Van Sciver said it's sad how when she asks a group of high-school aged students or even adults how many are artists, there's considerably less hands and many wistful faces.

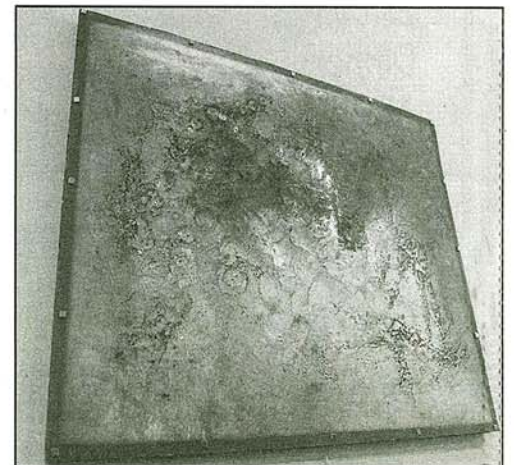
"That they start out as artists and remain artists is very important to us," said Van Sciver.

If you go ...

What: ROYGBIV, "Exploring the Color Spectrum"

Where: The Cotuit Center for the Arts, 4404 Route 28, Cotuit

When: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., through Feb. 7



"Heart" by Michael Marisi Ornstein.

Staff photos by David Colantuono