

Local artistic talent spotlighted at large art exhibit this weekend

BY ABBY FOX

One of the artists to notice in this weekend's annual art show put on by the Nancy Stephen Gallery and School of Art is one of its young students and teachers: 16-year-old Katie Lysik, who has seven pieces on display.

"I've known her for a really long time and I've never known anymore more talented than her," said Lauren DelBrocco, her friend, fellow Stephen school student and co-teacher of silk painting.

Lysik said she's been part the gallery for eight years, since she was eight, and she remembers the first year she enrolled, "I realized this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," she said. "I thought it might possibly go somewhere, and even if it doesn't, this is what I want to do."

Gallery owner Nancy Scelsa certainly thinks she's going somewhere.

"I think at a very young age she developed her own technique," she said. "She's come into her own in the past couple of years."

Lysik paints a lot of people, especially women, in motion, whether dancing or otherwise, and two of her favorite paintings on display are of a hip-hop artist she spotted in a Providence Performing Arts Center ad; and a group of whirling dancers in white.

She started out in acrylics, progressed to oil, the medium she primarily works in, but she also does graphite drawings and silk painting, she explained, as she's putting her portfolio together to apply to art schools next year.

A North Kingstown resident and student, Lysik said both the local school system and the Nancy Stephen Gallery have prepared her well to find herself as an artist. "We all learn at our own pace here, do our own thing and develop our own styles," she said. "We've really grown up here. For many people, it's a home away from home."

She doesn't know yet where she may end up,

just that "there are a lot of amazing art schools in New England," she said.

The Nancy Stephen Gallery and School is holding the annual art show and sale June 5 and 6 at Crestar Manufacturing on 51 Liberty Street. The gallery has been part of East Greenwich for 15 years and the show is boasting about 70 participating artists and 200 art works.

Admission and parking are free. Hours: June 5 from 1 to 6, with a champagne reception from 1 to 3 p.m. and Sunday June 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The gallery is on King Street in East Greenwich at 884-8979.



Katie Lysik