

Senior's self-portrait ends her run at art show with top prize

Abby Rapp has lots of ribbons from Englewood festival

By [Doug Page](#), Staff Writer

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ENGLEWOOD — Abby Rapp first entered the Englewood Youth Art Show when she was in sixth grade.

"I think my mom has all the ribbons in a scrapbook," she smiled. Now a senior at Miami Valley Career Technical Center, she ended her run at the annual exhibit with a "Best of Show" award for her self-portrait in colored pencil.

More than 100 people — young artists, parents, grandparents and family — gathered March 6 at the Englewood Government Center for the presentation of awards. The event is sponsored by the Englewood Festival and Arts Commission and open to all children pre-K through 12th grade living in the Northmont school district, said Linda Bryan of the commission.

Her colleague, Barb Franz, said the event has been held for at least 20 years, which translates into a lot of ribbons presented. "We always have plenty of extra ribbons on hand in case someone loses their's and starts to cry," said Chairwoman Linda Campise.

The women said the idea behind the show was to encourage children to express themselves in any medium. For Rapp, it has been a learning process that has led her to the study of graphic arts at the MVCTC. "Since I first started, my art has gotten better," Rapp said. "I've gotten more into art. Now, I look at other people's work to see what I can learn."

She was not happy when she completed her self-portrait, feeling the work was too dark. She used those dark tones to add dramatic light as she added more color and brightness.

"It was a surprise," she said. "I really didn't think it would work."

Ten years younger and a foot or more shorter, David App had much the same journey in producing his vision of a poinsettia. The third-grader's first pencil sketch of the flower was "weird. Then I colored it." But he was still not satisfied. "It looked weird in one color."

So David decided to blend his colors to offer various hues of red and green into his vision of a poinsettia. "It's something I just taught myself."

The more than 100 entries will remain on display in the Government Center through this week.

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-2290 or dpage@DaytonDailyNews.com.

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