

## BELLARMINE JUNIOR ALLY PEPIN ORGANIZES NATIVITY HOUSE ART EXHIBIT

## "Nativity House Art Exhibit: The Tenacity of the Creative Spirit"

Saturday, April 21, 2012 4-7 pm Bellarmine Preparatory School Xavier Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Fr. Weber Hall 2300 South Washington, Tacoma, Washington 98405 253-752-7701



While volunteering at Nativity House homeless shelter in downtown Tacoma, Ally Pepin, a junior at Bellarmine Preparatory School, found herself drawn to the Art Room  $\sim$  a studio serving those who don't own supplies, much less a home to work in. She recalls her astonishment at the beauty and complexity of the paintings, where she heard the voices of the "homeless", "poor", "counter cultural", "different" —those who move around the edges of accepted society and popular culture and are seldom heard above a peripheral whisper.

Date:

She met some of the artists; those who paint for a few hours every week at Nativity House's art studio for a lot of different reasons. Maybe it's the only way they are able speak to people, maybe it's therapy or maybe it's their most concrete connection to a

happier former life. What became clear is that the individuals are artists first and the hand that they have been dealt is distantly second.

Charles Ralston creates fantastic worlds combining the permanent and transient natures of all of our collective experiences into a kind of Northwest communal statement. Adam Aldrich paints with an organic fluidity; everything in these pictures is fantastically colored with a liquid palette and Painterly brushstroke. His pictures are a happy place. Justin Mason's universe is as ordered, linear and confined as Aldrich's is flowing. Hard edged bands of metallic, saturated colors march through his compositions surrounding and incorporating birds, demons and buildings in a maze-like structure of midi-evil perspective.

Ally fashioned a vision to share these exquisite pieces with her community to give a face to both this basic need to create beauty and the tenacity of the creative spirit. The idea of an exhibit to showcase these pieces, and to raise desperately needed resources for the Art Room, was born. She took the idea to her art teacher at Bellarmine, Ben Meeker, and together they had no trouble enlisting the passion and support of two Bellarmine student clubs to support the concept, the Diversity Club and the Intersect Club.

The works of Charles Ralston, Adam Aldrich, Justin Mason and the many other artists of Nativity House will be on display in Bellarmine's Xavier Board Room on Saturday, April  $21^{\rm st}$ , from 4-7 pm.

Each piece, a physical representation of that most beautiful, fundamental core of what it means to be human, will be displayed with a biography of the artist. These artists speak with a decidedly natural language, a basic need to create beauty and to call out to others through paint applied to canvas, who create because they have to and because they are fundamentally beautiful humans. As are we all.

Appetizers will be served at the exhibit. Donations will be accepted at the door with all proceeds benefitting the Nativity House Art Room. Pieces will be for sale with proceeds directly benefitting Nativity House artists.



Mountain and City by Charles Ralston



Three Marys by Adam Aldrich



Pseudo Maze At Night by Justin Mason