



Paintings mimic artist's life

PAGE A3

South Windsor High School art teacher Evan Fable looks at his painting "Low Tide," which is part of the exhibit "Evan Fable: Pop Art Revisited," currently running at the South Windsor Public Library.

Jim Michaud / Journal Inquirer

Downtown celebration A2

Downtown Manchester will celebrate spring Saturday with horsedrawn wagon rides and characters.

Family memoir in SWindsor A2

Storyteller will share her grandmother's story, "The Blue Shawl," at the Wood Memorial Library April 27.

A2 Just for Fun

A5 Clubs

A6 Movie Guide

A11 Going Out Guide

'Urinetown' at CRT sings A4

'Urinetown: The Musical' is a delightful and entertaining show that will likely put a smile on your face.

Coffee house set for Sunday A10

Stafford Arts Commission's final coffee house of the season features Sandy Baily and Dan Labich.

Pop goes his world



South Windsor art teacher Evan Fable puts finishing touches on a self portrait. An exhibit featuring Fable's work is running at the South Windsor Public Library through Saturday.

Jim Michaud
Journal Inquirer

Teacher's art is drawn from his own life and family

By Marla Hoffman
Journal Inquirer

SOUTH WINDSOR — In his classroom at South Windsor High School, Evan Fable puts some finishing touches on a self-portrait, adding shadow to the deep blue background framing his face.

Looking back and forth at the mirror next to him he captures his mood and the intricacies of his skin through variations in tone and color. Each stroke of the crayon brings to life a facet of his face. Leaning close, he pencils in the detail.

Like his teachers at Central Connecticut State University where his is working toward his master's degree in art education, Fable says he expects a lot from his young students.

"I push them because I want them to learn," he said.

For the past two and a half years, Fable has been working on a collection of very personal, very emotional paintings, which depict images of his life and family. Those paintings are on exhibit until Saturday, April 23, at the South Windsor Public Library.

A West Hartford Hall High School and Alfred University graduate, this Glastonbury resident drew the inspiration for his exhibit from his family, friends, and interests. Many of the paintings, drawn in the pop art style, were taken directly from photographs he dug up in family albums, or from his weekend recreational hockey games, or with friends.

Walking around the exhibit is like taking a glance into his life. In a series starring slain rapper



Jim Michaud/Journal Inquirer

Fable's self portraits are featured in the exhibit "Evan Fable: Pop Art Revisited" at the South Windsor Public Library. The exhibit is on display until Saturday, April 23.

Tupac Shakur, Fable said he wanted to have some fun while paying tribute to the women in his life.

"He's one of those artists I had an affinity toward because he was a good actor and had a lot of different messages," Fable said. "These were a way for Tupac to be thinking thoughts I'm thinking."

The largest series in the collection, each face has a thought bubble that reveals the names of Fable's mother, grandmothers, girlfriend, and friends, among others.

Of all his subjects, he said, his hockey teammates are some of his favorites. He said he is even hoping to do commission work in this

style. An entire wall of the exhibit is dedicated to the sports-themed paintings.

"As I began doing these I was falling in love with them," he said. "I thought, 'I want to do more of these.'"

As guests to the exhibit move through the paintings, each will seem to become more and more personal. Passing the many faces of Shakur and the stick-wielding hockey figures, the theme will shift to one much closer to Fable — his family.

Along one wall of family images, one painting stands out in the center — Fable as a baby with

his mother, titled "Teething." Above the baby's head in a small thought bubble we see he is thinking about grapes; mom is thinking about how his brother hid his toy earlier.

"I wanted to choose not only significant shots, but something that had humor," Fable said. "I was working on depicting what the people in the photos are thinking about."

In another painting at one end of the wall, titled "Low Tide," Fable stands in front of a large, red mailbox. In his thought bubble he reminisces about another scene

■ SEE FABLE / PAGE A8

YOUR HOME FOR MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

FOOD SERVED TIL MIDNIGHT

54TVs

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

95 Elm St., Enfield • 741-2936

"NORTHERN CT'S LARGEST SPORTSBAR"

"BEST DEAL IN ENFIELD"

MON. & TUES. NIGHTS

PRIME RIB 16 oz. \$9.95

(Dine in ONLY) 5-9PM

FOOD SERVED TILL MIDNIGHT! EVERY NIGHT!

MON. & TUES. 16 OZ. PRIME RIB \$9.95 DINE-IN ONLY 5-9PM	TUESDAY Pina Colodas, Margaritas & Strawberry Daiquiris from 9-11PM \$2.25	WEDNESDAY WING-IT WEDNESDAYS 5 TO MIDNIGHT 40¢ WINGS	THURSDAY MILLER LITE BOTTLES (from 8PM to 10PM) \$2.00 BUD LIGHT BOTTLES (from 10PM to Midnight) \$2.00
---	--	--	--

YOUR HOME FOR MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



“I feel emotion is easy to capture in pictures. But I use text and other imagery to give other thought or meaning to the image.”

Evan Fable

Speaking about the inspiration for his latest work



Jim Michaud/Journal Inquirer

Evan Fable work is currently being displayed at the South Windsor Public Library. Below shows a piece that depicts both him and his father, Bill.



Teacher's art mimics own life

■ FABLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

in which an old man (his grandfather) stands in front of the same mailbox. Down the wall, the painting titled “When’s Dinner,” shows the old man in front of the mailbox, with a sunset bursting with color as a backdrop, thinking about a lobster dinner. Both scenes of the mailbox are set at his grandmother’s family’s Maine vacation home, Fable said.

“I remember that scene as a kid, right out there in front of the house,” he said. “It’s so beautiful there. And that picture of my grandfather stood out to me.”

Fable said he decided right away to paint the photograph of his grandfather, who passed away several years ago, he had a friend take a photograph of himself in the same spot — a tribute to his grandfather. This painting is one of the first he did in this collection at the library.

“I knew I wanted to do that photo,” Fable said. “I wanted to do a parody of what he was thinking about.”

Working in the pop art style allowed Fable to add a bit of humor to the photo, imagining what his grandfather might have been thinking about at the moment the picture was taken. Each of the paintings in the exhibit is done in the same style.

Pop art, Fable said, is a style made famous by artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein in the 1950s and ’60s. The style blends bright, primary colors with text. While he said he is a fan of many different styles, he likes that pop art is a way for him to incorporate text.

“I feel emotion is easy to capture in pictures,” he said. “But I use text and other imagery to give other thought or meaning to the image.”

Fable said he learned a lot about art from his mother, Susan Goldberg, a ceramics artist and a teacher, and received much support from his father, Bill Fable, and many friends. His university teachers have also had a big impact on his style, he said.

Over the years Fable has experimented with different styles. His many self portraits in the exhibit are evidence of that experimental nature — each one showing either a different angle of his face or mood.

“I find I’m the most reliable model,” joked Fable.

In his self portraits, Fable said, he likes to play with the tone of the skin, capturing the many components of his face.

“I’m intrigued by the quality of skin and the liveliness of the curves on the face,” Fable said. “With self portraits I can work with different kinds of lighting.”

“I try not to do the ‘serious’ pose,” he said. “In one I’m smiling, one grimacing, one shocked and surprised. I wanted to capture different emotions.”

Of the dozens of paintings in the exhibit, his favorite is of himself as a little boy. He stands with his fists clenched — “Argg,” it says.

“I like it because it’s playful,” Fable laughs, looking at his toddler self. “I’m trying to be a tough guy.”

It’s those childhood memories, Fable said, that have inspired him the most.

Back in his classroom at South Windsor High, Fable adds some color to the shadow under his neck, his hand moving the crayon swiftly back and forth over his skin. He glances one more time at himself in the mirror.

“My students — they learn by watching and experiencing,” Fable said. “When I was in high school, art was one of those escapes I thought was the best time of my day. So I want to give them that too.”

“Evan Fable: Pop Art Revisited” is open to the public at the South Windsor Public Library, 1550 Sullivan Ave., through Saturday, April 23. Library hours are Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 860-644-2302