



# ART SHAPES THE WORLD: YOUTH ARTS EXHIBITION

## Featured Artist: Devon Ste. Marie-Rubin

February 17, 2016 By Lawrence Ricardo

With “Art Shapes the World”, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Arts Exhibition, fully in motion, the Petaluma Arts Center is happy to represent youth artists from K-12<sup>th</sup> grades. This exhibition showcases inspiring artwork of over 80 students from Petaluma schools, in a variety of mediums, demonstrating the power and beauty of children’s artwork of all ages.

Devon Ste. Marie-Rubin said she was honored when asked to be the featured artist of the exhibition. Kate Blakeslee, curator of the exhibition, received recommendation from Casa Grande art teacher, Harry Frank, to feature the fresh out of high school 19-year-old.

“Devon is an accomplished artist who has developed techniques in a variety of mediums,” said Blakeslee. “Her work and her pursuit as a career are a great example for our young artists who also may want to continue pursuing a career or further studies in art.”

The recent Casa Grande alumna is an art student at the Santa Rosa Junior college, but plans to apply to the school DigiPen Institute of Technology in Washington to attend by fall 2016. Her hope is to graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) in Digital Art and Animation.

Marie-Rubin showcases a variety of visual art that is on display at the Petaluma Arts Center. When asked about her motivation for starting an art project, she said that her mentality once came from inspiration, but stemmed into something greater.

“I have discovered, as for motivation, that inspiration is not enough to get work done – it isn’t reliable,” said Marie-Rubin. “My mentality is that I want to learn, and I want to grow. To do so, I have to work. I have to create – it is a necessity.”

Marie-Rubin has come a long way with her art, having work selected for three shows: the Petaluma Arts Center Youth Arts Exhibition in 2013, the Sebastopol Arts Center in 2014, and the Aqus Café Student Show in 2015. However, she credits much of her success to her Casa Grande art teacher, Harry Frank.

“My art teacher, Mr. Frank, definitely had something to do with developing my interest in art,” said Marie-Rubin. He really opened up my eyes to the fact that I could be an artist. It usually takes someone outside of your family to help inspire you.”

The Petaluma Arts Center hosts this yearly exhibition to honor artists at their youngest age. Curator Blakeslee aims to celebrate the art of the students in being able to see them receive distinction in a professional gallery at such a young age.

Marie-Rubin hopes to inspire younger artists to help them to continue with their art endeavors.

“Don’t be afraid of not being good,” said Marie-Rubin. “And if you are afraid, do it anyway.”

Marie-Rubin and the rest of the student artists are showing their work at the “Art Shapes the World”, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Arts Exhibition from February 19 – March 5 at the Petaluma Arts Center.