

Congratulations! It's good to read something good in the paper. We think this is wonderful!
 Mary & Bill Perna

Tomorrow's Weather
 Cloudy, Warmer
 HIGH TUESDAY: 25-30.
 LOW TONIGHT: 15;

The Grand E

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—Grand Rapids Press Photographer.

ARTIST HONORED — Bob Vanderbei, 10, left, points how he did his waterfront oil to Ted Hugger,

editor of the Ken-O-Sha Chatterbox, which is buying the painting to hang at the school.

Painting Bought for School

Young Artist's Work is Seller

Vincent Van Gogh once described art as the expression of something one has seen which is bigger than oneself.

Bob Vanderbei is a tiny, talented 10-year-old whose art work is almost as big as he.

According to his art teacher, it's better than most adults'.

Bob is a sixth grader at Ken-O-Sha Elementary School, whose student newspaper, the Ken-O-Sha Chatterbox, thought so much of a waterfront oil Bob did that it's buying the painting so it might be hung permanently in the school.

"He's also sold two other paintings," says his teacher, Kenneth Thomasma. "We're quite proud of him, and he's stimulated the other students to take more interest in art."

Bob, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rog Vanderbei, of 3225 Dawes SE, says he got interested last summer, when he took a Kalamazoo op art

"Last winter my mom started taking lessons at East Grand Rapids Art Center, so I went over with her," the boy recalls.

"My great-grandma was an artist and my grandpa was real good, too, but he never took lessons."

Says Mrs. Maribelle Busher, instructor at the Art Center: "When Bob first began coming, he was in with the children. But he got so good we put him in with the adults. He has a marvelous imagination and seems to have an instinctive talent for painting."

"He can paint creatively for three hours at a time without becoming sluggish or tired. Most adults can only work for an hour and a half or so."

Mrs. Busher says she is now starting Bob in metal sculpturing.

The young artist, who hopes to be an architectural engineer, so far has painted landscape and waterfront scenes, a clown, a parrot and a still life, modeled after other works. The oil was done by palette knife technique.

"I like basketball, too, but I'd rather paint first," he says. "I go over to the Art Center two or three nights a week. I'm working on my color blending and proportion now."

A polite, blond-haired youth, Bob isn't awed by the work he's done. In fact, he takes it rather matter-of-factly: "I just like to do it. It's just one of those things."

To Ken-O-Sha School, it's more than that. It has its own artist in residence.

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