

'Art is relative' says fine arts senior

By Tiffany Benson
Staff Reporter

JT Daniels, a senior in fine arts, is turning many heads with colorful layered canvases. His showcase debut will take place tonight from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Campanella Gallery in the academic underground.

Daniels says some of his pieces presented in the Campanella Gallery are the product of artistic frustration and recreation. The final versions on display are images that not only demonstrate Daniels' powerful message of beauty and passion - but the pieces are also a representation of his journey of personal growth.

Some of Daniels' artistic expressions are effortless, spontaneous works coupled with an attitude of indifference, he says. Others are tied into emotional battles that play out as mental images which, in turn, spark Daniel's creativity.

"I am right handed," Daniels says, "but there were times when I would put my pencil or chalk in my left hand, close my eyes and just draw."

Even when his flow is blocked, he says he views life's hardships as an opportunity to create.

"A master should be masterful at his craft no matter what's in front of him," Daniels says. "When you are at a point and you have no money, you kind of just use what you can."

Daniels uses a mix of specialties - including oil paint, spray paint and house paints, as well as crayons -- to produce lifelike images that remained etched in memory upon a single glance.

Daniels also aspires to be an entrepreneur.

"If I am my own boss then I have control over what my art will be used for," says Daniels.

From T-shirts to CD covers to brochures, Daniels is breaking new ground with local bands and business owners with his new found confidence and networking skills.

"Now I feel comfortable in my own skin and with the level of art I am able to put out," says Daniels, who said he has gone through considerable self-growth. "I know that if I am able to accomplish it, I will set out for it."

Daniels also had to learn how to step back from his art

and appreciate what he has accomplished, while remaining humble and treating every project like it's his first project.

Daniels admits that when he was young and first getting started, he didn't even know how to hold a paint brush.

"Once you get some age behind the art, you learn that sometimes your mistakes are actually what is most likable in your work," he said.

Daniels' influence and inspiration are attributed to writers like James Frey, lyrical artists like Biggie Smalls and Adele, and graphic artist David Choe.

"All art, whether music, poetry, drawing, painting, dancing...is relative," says Daniels. "Anything a person does can be perceived as art."

For more information on JT Daniels, purchasing artwork, and links to his blog, visit www.9bsmooth.com



"The Hair" - and many other works - by senior JT Daniels will be on display in the Campanella Gallery this month.