

MAILING ADDRESS:

1335 PASEO DEL PUEBLO SUR #113, TAOS, NM 87571

TELEPHONE:

1.575.770.6038

EMAIL:

HENSLEYFINEART@YAHOO.COM

Critical Reviews:

Born into an environment steeped in the arts, Michael Hensley developed a keen interest in painting while in his late teens. At the age of 18, he moved from New Mexico to New York and began his formal training, which included a disciplined study of anatomy. Mankind's place as an integral force in nature and the struggle of man, is the core of the inspiration with which he approaches his large and passionate paintings.

Art & Antiques-

Michael Hensley's figure drawings and depiction of human drama, "Ascent" and "Descent", add a dimension rarely seen outside the world's great museums.

Art & Antiques-

Michael Hensley's work is formed with aspiration.

Tally Richards, Art Dealer-

Michael Hensley created a book before he started to paint some of his masterpieces, a book of detailed and exquisite anatomy. Each muscle, each limb of the human body is rendered in the utmost detail and accuracy. Hensley knows how each muscle works, how each looks when still or when in movement. After he finished his book, he moved onto a canvas to create a museum-quality painting of more than one hundred figures, all anatomically correct, all beautifully rendered and all in one massive room size painting. The time Hensley spends on his work is indicative of his philosophy. "Art should be something people strive for, work hard at and dedicate their lives to," says Michael Hensley, "not something you randomly knock out in half an hour with no thought at all. Create to the best of your ability, and let history take care of the rest." Artist's who take pride and time with their art, who put in years of study and personal passion, are unusual in today's world of "marketable" art. Unlike other artist's who's works have no warmth, nothing personal, the paintings of Michael Hensley, shall we say, seem to have a soul.

Taos News-

Hensley's drawing, The "Voice of Silence" won Best of Show and the People's Choice award. Hensley's nude figure studies are impeccably rendered. His work has almost a Germanic draftsmanship quality not unlike Albrecht Durer.

Taos News-

Michael Hensley's "Genesis" must be seen to be appreciated. It is a simple figure painting, but the musculature, color scheme and size carry a nearly religious power on the shoulders of the powerful man represented.

Taos News-

Paintings, in a sense, are like a symphony orchestra; there can be so much going on, that one can get away with a lot. But a drawing is like a solo voice or instrument: naked; it all hangs out. Only the most ruthless honesty will work. Hensley's figure drawings are in the great tradition, and it is encouraging that so comparatively young an artist has had the guts and patience to submit himself to a discipline only too often neglected in these hurry-up days.

Art Talk-

Be sure not to miss the massive mural sized canvases of Michael Hensley. This is a spiritual & surrealistic body of work (with great attention to detail of the human form) that is not to be missed!

Taos Today, A Walking Guide-

Where do we come from and where are we going? Michael Hensley commented on this in his colored pencil drawing "Genesis," which comes from a series created around the same subject. "Everything is cyclical," the artist said. "Genesis" deals with the emergence of life and creation. All the figures are connected in some way. We all depend on each other for survival. The great

thinkers are contemplating what is truly important in life amidst the chaos around them. All that truly matters in this world is kindness and how we treat others." "Genesis" is grounded in a mass of large heads, some with eyes closed to represent the great thinkers of past ages: Tolstoy, Lao Tzu, Leonardo Da Vinci, Ludwig Van Beethoven, and others. These heads are connected by elongated nude figures weaving in and out of each other. He said "everything is done with exaggeration, physical strength is used to represent intellectual strength." Nothing lasts, not even this show, so stop by the museum and see it before it's over. It's wonderful to have such strong work featured in Taos.

Taos News-
Taos Art Museum-

After graduating from high school, Michael spent the summer in Woodstock, New York, studying with Vladimir Bachinsky, considered one of the great artist and muralist of the century. Because of Bachinsky's inspiration and enthusiasm for art, Michael acquired a genuine passion for the masters of the past as well as the importance of great draftsmanship.

Michael was particularly inspired by the masters of the High Renaissance. With Vladimir's recommendation, Michael left home at the age of 18 to attend the Art Students League and the National Academy of Design in New York City. Because he showed so much promise as a Draftsman, Michael was granted a full scholarship at the request of his instructor Gustav Rehberger. Passionately interested in the human figure, Michael was constantly drawing from life. When unable to draw from live models, he spent all his free time studying canons of proportion and human anatomy. These masterful drawings done in his late teens show all the struggle and determination of a young artisan learning to master his craft. The comprehensive collection of Michael's youthful figure studies is considered by many to be a masterpiece in its own right and as a result those studies have been compiled into book format and are awaiting publication. Michael began exhibiting his work with the Park Slope Art Association, Salmagundi Club, the Brooklyn Conservatory and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. After only one year, his instructor, Rehberger, told him that "he had learned his lessons well and continuing with a formal education would only hamper his individuality and growth as an artist" and "it was time to follow his own path".

This time coincided with the period in which his mother's health had rapidly declined. While raising his son Havean, Michael's interest in philosophy and classical literature began to make its way on to the canvas. Working on mural size canvases, Michael began his pictorial Tour de Force the "Ascent" and "Descent". Using his knowledge of anatomy, Michael set out to fill these masterpieces with human figures in every conceivable position. The finished paintings were a culmination of several years work.

During this time, Michael had also begun two other large emotionally charged paintings. One a crucifixion entitled "Sangre de Cristo," which was painted as a tribute to his ailing mother and a very personal painting entitled "Prometheus Bound."

After his mother's death, Michael painted "Allegory of Time" a tribute to her memory and one of his most personal and moving paintings. At this time Michael was also creating a new surrealistic body of work. The images emanate from a divine creator both figuratively and metaphorically. Intermingled human forms bursting with nervous tension and energy are harmoniously interlocked with the great sages of the past who are seemingly contemplating mankind's predestined fate. It is here in this broad, humanistic conception that Michael aspires to convey the unrelenting spirit of mankind while still enjoying to work from live models. It is this theme that currently permeates his thoughts. The Taos news wrote, "Michael created a book before he started to paint some of his masterpieces - a book of detailed and exquisite anatomy. Each muscle, each limb of the human body is rendered in the utmost detail and accuracy. Hensley knows how each muscle works, how each looks when still or when in movement. After he finished his book, he moved onto a canvas to create a museum-quality painting of more than one hundred figures, all anatomically correct, all beautifully rendered and all in one massive room sized painting."

No doubt Hensley has given and will continue to give his own special gift of timeless beauty and awareness to all of humanity through his exquisite work. Michael summarized it well when he said "You do what you can, and history will take care of the rest."

Portales News- Tribune-
Associated Press-

Stop and look at Michael Hensley's meticulously drawn series of "Knowledge Seekers of the World" based on history's most contemplative and philosophical figures. In his pencil drawings and watercolors with pastel, he depicts more than what Plato and Aristotle might have looked like in their day-you can feel the inner spirit of a wisdom seeker.

Taos Today, A Walking Guide-

Michael Hensley is a kind and modest artist of great skill who would rather engage you in conversation about his children and yours than to talk about his artwork. For all his own personal modesty, it is a near impossibility to walk into a room where his art is hanging without having it dominate your attention. Not just because some of the work is 16 foot tall, monumentally framed oil on canvas, but because it calls forth with immediacy an intimate reflection on human nature, myth, creation and metamorphosis – the symbols, the mystery and the core of human existence and fate.

To view his recent drawings, is to spiral in these subjects, their symbolism and their perfection of form, so eloquently portrayed with, at times, just a wax colored pencil.

Hensley grew up in Taos in the 1960s and 70s, the son of painter Jackson Hensley, in the small but rich world of academic fine art. After high-school he apprenticed with Vladimir Bachinsky, a muralist in Woodstock, New York, where he was surrounded and inspired by the works and writings of the masters – Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Dali, Rodin and Bosch – Hensley endlessly practiced drawing the human figure and his drafting skills. He was encouraged to attend the Art Student’s League and the National Academy of Design in New York City. He was driven toward perfection. He excelled in his abilities and interest in anatomical drawing and today the human figure is the central imagery in his creative work. Hensley has authored several books; instructional works teaching students to accurately render human features and anatomy. He has also shared his techniques in demonstrations for the young people at several local schools.

Hensley’s wealth of classical skill, seldom seen mastered today and nearly forgotten in modern times (except in a few institutions of fine art), has mixed in Hensley with a furnace of creative curiosity. The outcome is not trompe l’oeil portraiture, or still life, but animated, energetic forms arching, grasping and leaning into symbols, dreams and one another in a truly inspiring example of the innate human ability to create and at the same time, honor creation.

Caitlin Legere-
Five Magazine, Issue 36-

Taos Students Learning The Art of the Human Form-
Local artist Michael Hensley is teaching Taos students how to draw one of the most difficult subjects to master — people. In his “Artistic Anatomy” class, offered for free to students from grades 6-12, Hensley said it is important to give students confidence and encouragement. “I try to really simplify some of it initially. Sometimes it can take years to get halfway decent. It’s certainly a challenge.”

The class is held each Monday at Taos High School but typically includes students from all over the district. “We usually average between 28-36 kids a session,” said Hensley. “We have kids from quite a few different schools, which is nice.”

At the Feb. 28 class, the session focused on drawing the human arm, from muscle structures to skin surface. A life-size skeleton and smaller statues showing detailed layers of muscle and bone stood in the middle of the group. Hensley gave the students instructions and time to work, moving from student to student and giving individual pointers while they worked. He also quizzed the young artists on muscle groups — from biceps and deltoids to pronators and the “clavicular portion of the pectoralis.”

Hensley said Taos High School senior Zoe Larsen initially invited him to teach the series of classes. “Michael is also my soccer coach, so I always ask him for help during the soccer season,”. Larsen said she was excited when Hensley offered his expertise; she said drawing is a hobby she wants to continue to pursue, and if she can master drawing the human form she thinks she could draw almost anything.

Hensley said hands and faces can be particularly tough to draw realistically. According to a release he prepared about the class, “accurately depicting the human form is arguably the most difficult task an artist will encounter.” Besides examining physical aspects of the human figure such as musculature and facial structure, the class analyzes topics such as gesture, facial expressions, shading, action and emotion.

“Everyone knows what the figure looks like, and if it doesn’t look normal it’s pretty obvious,” Hensley said. He also said he’s been teaching some “extremely talented” students, even from the lower grades. “The progress is really starting to show,”.

He hopes to keep the program going over the summer and during the next school year. Hensley said he sees the after-school class as a good option for many students, particularly those whose advanced-placement or honors classes’ conflict with arts classes during the day. “This is a nice option for the kids that are really serious,”.

Djuna Carlton, a seventh grader at Taos Charter School, said she has learned a lot from Hensley’s instruction. “I’ve been drawing a long, long time,”. “It’s a really great class.”

The students’ work will be showcased at the Millicent Rogers museum for a month, with an opening to be held April 11 from 5-6 p.m. For more information, visit www.artistanatomy.com.

Matthew Van Buren
The Taos News

Art of the human form: High school artists display their work at Millicent Rogers Museum

The human figure is an endless source of inspiration for local artist Michael Hensley and he is infusing a new generation of teenagers with his enthusiasm.

Anatomical drawings by his students from the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio will be the focus of “Artistic Anatomy: The Art of Drawing the Human Form,” an exhibition that opens with a reception Monday (April 11), from 5-6 p.m. at the Millicent Rogers Museum, 1504 Millicent Rogers Road. Admission to the reception is free of charge.

According to Faith Hensley, public relations manager for the Millicent Rogers Museum, and who is married to Michael Hensley, the museum’s staff wanted to address the lack of affordable summertime art opportunities for teenagers in the 12-18 age group. Michael, a figurative artist who has been studying anatomy for more than 30 years, volunteered to do eight sessions on anatomical drawing for teenagers. Attendance was great, Faith said, “and the work they were doing was so fantastic that they wanted to continue it.”

Taos High School culinary arts teacher Mary Spears volunteered her classroom on Mondays from 3-4:30 p.m. for what became the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio. Anywhere from 28 to 40 students have been showing up, with an average of 30. “This is classical training, blending of the math, science and artistic parts,” Faith said. “They’re learning the names of the muscles and how they work. They’re also focusing on mathematical proportion. Just seeing the work from the kids, I’m amazed at what talented kids we have.” “I thought the content would be a little advanced but they actually seem to be thriving in it,” Michael said.

He based the curriculum on how he was taught at the Art Students League and the National Academy of Art and Design in New York City. He began with gesture drawings to develop the students’ confidence in line and to expose them to the idea that they did not have to erase their mistakes, mistakes can be blessings in disguise leading to discoveries and individual styles.

He built up to planes and geometric shapes to simplify the approach to various body regions, in particular the ribcage and pelvis. After the students started understanding line and shape, Michael Hensley broke down body parts into anatomical structure, emphasizing the skeleton to impart an understanding of bony landmarks in terms of proportion. Currently, he is introducing his students to muscle groups. “In the beginning we gave them enough time and kept it relatively simple and they’ve been building on it. I’m surprised at how good they’ve been doing for their age, especially having no experience with it at all,” Hensley said.

He feels that high school students are particularly neglected in terms of school programs. “They love intellectual stimulation but there are not a lot of opportunities for them, especially in the arts,” he said. Professional workshops often start at \$800 and teenagers don’t have the funds or feel comfortable alongside the adult artists, according to Hensley. The Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio fills a niche, he said.

Hensley grew up in Taos and had the opportunity to learn from community members who were giving back to the community. “I feel like it’s a nice thing to do that in return,” he said.

His own anatomical explorations are on display at his website, www.artistanatomy.com, featuring figure drawings, art studies and anatomical plates that can be used for study guides. “It’s there for the taking for anyone who wants to use it,” said Hensley.

Unexpectedly, he has had as many medical students as artists using the site, for help in anatomy and physiology classes. They get access to good information, but poor drawings, and they find Hensley’s studies more accurate with respect to live structures, he said. When he established the website, he was inspired by his own efforts as an art student to find encouragement and instruction. “It makes me feel good that it helps somebody,” said Hensley.

Meanwhile, the Hensley’s hope to keep the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio going, for “an age group that’s been under-served in the community,” according to Faith. They plan to do another free, eight-session workshop at the Millicent Rogers Museum in June and July.

Dory Hulburt
The Taos News

Mythical creatures: Millicent Rogers Museum hosts Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio exhibit: For painter and art instructor Michael Hensley, bringing to life something nobody has seen before constitutes creation in its purest form.

“Drawing from the imagination, the ability to express one’s ideas through drawing, is the foundation of all great representational works of art,” he said.

Inspiring his students to be creators is one of Hensley’s goals. It has materialized in the exhibit “The Science of Faeries, Creatures, and Dragons, Drawings From the Imagination,” sponsored and hosted by the Millicent Rogers Museum. An opening reception for the show is planned Wednesday (April 13) from 5-6:30 p.m.

“Fairies, creatures and beasts, stored away in the mind, wait for that creative moment to spring to life,” Hensley said. “The artist aspires to breathe life into these concepts, to see them emerge in a three-dimensional form on a two-dimensional surface. How does one bring forth the image in one’s mind and convey it through lines drawn by the hand? These are the challenges the young artists of Taos High School asked of themselves.”

All the students included in the exhibition have spent the past year internalizing these concepts and expressing them in their work.

The exhibit, their instructor says, is a culmination of the young artists’ triumphs in their attempts to share the creative recesses of their imagination.

“They have created profound and subtle examples of sublime drawing in an attempt to further understand these intellectual and philosophical questions,” Hensley said. “They have spent endless hours exploring the science of anatomy as it relates to fantasy, creatures and mythical beasts that reside in their own imagination.”

The exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio, Taos High School and the University of New Mexico-Taos dual-credit program.

Hensley is the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio founder and artistic director. He is also an art instructor at Taos High School and UNM-Taos.

“It is the mission of the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio to use art as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of today’s youth,” he said. “It combines both art instruction and life skills education. Our activities help the youth in our community come into a greater awareness of their intellectual being through self-expression and creative reasoning.”

Besides receiving art instruction, the young students are encouraged to make healthy life choices for their futures while feeling a sense of community. “Many of the area youth come from disadvantaged situations due to a complex variety of social and economic factors,” said Hensley. “The Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio mentoring program strives to fill a void in youth art education, where there is a lack of access to quality art instruction and art studio opportunities.”

The program aims to foster the intellectual, creative and emotional development of youth through the love of art.

“Reflection, imagination and the realization of possibilities extend beyond the studio and are core elements in the success of this program,” said the director. “Activities reinforce the lifelong practices of persistence and self-discipline, critical thinking, courage and risk taking.”

Another goal of The Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio: Create an artistic environment that develops confident and technically skilled artisans who have a lifelong passion and love for the arts.

“True art, inspired by nature, should aspire to be timeless and universal,” Hensley said. “This is also reflected in our exhibit. I hope you enjoy the stunningly beautiful drawings created by these highly talented teens as much as I do.”

The exhibit of student art will be on view through May 8. Millicent Rogers Museum is located at 1504 Millicent Rogers Road, off Paseo del Pueblo Norte in El Prado. For more information, call (575) 758-2462 or visit millicentrogers.com.

Teresa Dovalpage
Taos News-

TAOS ARTS CLUB – TEEN ART STUDIO EXHIBITION The Taos Arts Council is pleased to present an exhibition by youth artists participating in the Taos High School, UNM-Taos Dual Credit Program, Taos Arts Club and Teen Art Studio. The exhibition is on view at Taos Town Hall from November 17, 2017 through February 9, 2018, Monday – Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm. Featured in the art show are drawings by 23 youth artists from instructor Michael Hensley’s classes at Taos High School.

Youth art participants are: Alyda Bender, Leela Blakeley, Zoey Carey, Devin Cote, Athena Dunleavy, Amythist Fernandez, Zachary Ginn, Esperanza Gonzales, Mary Herrera, Jacqueline Jagers, Mary Jensen, Roah Khweis, Zahieh Khweis, Madeline Larsen, Skylar Magee, Liam Murphy, Sophia Nicholson, Isabella Padilla, Feliz Peralta Pino, Hannah Rivera, Caeley Stewart, Rhiannon Vigil and Eva Younkman.

A significant component of the exhibition consists of drawings from the imagination. “The ability to express one’s ideas through drawing is the foundation of all great representational works of art” states founder, artistic director and instructor Michael Hensley. In particular student work consists of a series of drawings inspired by the Inferno from Dante’s Divine Comedy. Each of the young artists spent the past year immersed in the intellectual and philosophical musings of this narrative poem. They spent end-

less hours exploring and mastering the elements of drawing. An equal amount of time was devoted to investigation and inquiry into this classic literary work and how it may be tastefully expressed in our current visual arts culture. “Emerging from the creative recesses of their imagination, this exhibition is a culmination of their triumphs in translating the written word into a visual language” says instructor Michael Hensley. Additional drawings in the exhibition are from the Artistic Human and Comparative Animal Anatomy program.

It is the purpose of The Taos Arts Club, Teen Art Studio to use art as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of today's youth. The program combines both art instruction and life skills education resulting in a greater awareness of intellectual being through self-expression and creative reasoning by these youth. “Many of the area youth come from disadvantaged situations due to a complex variety of social and economic factors” says founder Michael Hensley. “The Taos Arts Council works to promote and share the importance of the arts in our community and we are delighted to celebrate the accomplishments of these youth artists and the stellar art instruction program at Taos High School developed by Michael Hensley” says Paul Figueroa, President of the Taos Arts Council. “It is appropriate to showcase these highly skilled youth artists and their outstanding work in a public space, visited by many Taos residents.”

The Taos Arts Council formed in 2012 is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working to ensure that Taos has a vibrant, vital and active arts environment. For more information please visit, www.taosartscouncil.org. The programs of the Council are supported in part with a grant from NMArts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Taos Arts Council
Paul Figueroa, President of the Taos Arts Council

VISUAL ARTS • STIRRING THE IMAGINATION Taos Arts Council hosts impressive youth art exhibition

A significant component of a new exhibition presented by the Taos Arts Council consists of drawings from the imagination. The Teen Art show features work from Taos High School, University of New Mexico-Taos Dual Credit Program, Taos Arts Club and Teen Art Studio.

The exhibition is on view beginning Friday (Nov. 17) at Taos Town Hall, 400 Camino de la Placita. It can be seen through Feb. 9, 2018 during business hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. There is no admission to see the artwork.

“The ability to express one’s ideas through drawing is the foundation of all great representational works of art,” states founder, artistic director and instructor Michael Hensley.

In particular, student work consists of a series of drawings inspired by the “Inferno” from Dante’s “Divine Comedy.” Each of the young artists spent the past year immersed in the intellectual and philosophical musings of this narrative poem, according to Hensley. They spent endless hours exploring and mastering the elements of drawing. An equal amount of time was devoted to investigation and inquiry into this classic literary work and how it may be tastefully expressed in our current visual arts culture.

“Emerging from the creative recesses of their imagination, this exhibition is a culmination of their triumphs in translating the written word into a visual language,” Hensley said in a prepared statement. Additional drawings in the exhibition are from the Artistic Human and Comparative Animal Anatomy program.

It is the purpose of The Taos Arts Club, Teen Art Studio to “use art as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of today’s youth,” according to Hensley. The program combines both art instruction and life skills education resulting in a greater awareness of intellectual being through self-expression and creative reasoning by these youth. “Many of the area youth come from disadvantaged situations due to a complex variety of social and economic factors,” Hensley continues.

“The Taos Arts Council works to promote and share the importance of the arts in our community and we are delighted to celebrate the accomplishments of these youth artists and the stellar art instruction program at Taos High School developed by Michael Hensley” said Paul Figueroa, President of the Taos Arts Council, in a press release. “It is appropriate to showcase these highly skilled youth artists and their outstanding work in a public space, visited by many Taos residents.”

Featured in the art show are drawings by youth artists from instructor Michael Hensley’s classes at Taos High School. Participants include Alyda Bender, Leela Blakeley, Zoey Carey, Devin Cote, Athena Dunleavy, Amythist Fernandez, Zachary Ginn, Esperanza Gonzales, Mary Herrera, Jacqueline Jagers, Mary Jensen, Roah Khweis, Zahieh Khweis, Madeline Larsen, Skylar Magee, Liam Murphy, Sophia Nicholson, Isabella Padilla, Feliz Peralta Pino, Hannah Rivera, Cailey Stewart, Rhiannon Vigil and Eva Younkman.

The Taos Arts Council, formed in 2012, is a nonprofit organization working to ensure that Taos has a vibrant, vital and active arts environment. For more information, visit taosartscouncil.org. The programs of the council are supported in part with a grant from NM Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Opens Friday (Nov. 17), 9a.m.-5 p.m Taos Town Hall, 400 Camino de la Placita Free admission taosartscouncil.org

“THE ABILITY TO EXPRESS ONE’S IDEAS THROUGH DRAWING IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL GREAT REPRESENTATIONAL WORKS OF ART;” — MICHAEL HENSLEY,

Tempo, Taos News-

VISUAL ARTS • TALES OF THE IMAGINATION: Millicent Rogers Museum presents Taos High School and UNM-Taos teen arts

"Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there, wondering, fearing, doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before" — "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe's famous line stands for every artist of every stripe peering into the depths of their unspeakable uniqueness, and struggling to bring forth what no human has expressed before. A daunting task, but for the avowed creative, it is the purpose and very meaning of life itself.

"Bringing to life something no one has seen before is creation in its purest form," Michael Hensley said in an exhibit statement for the teen art show opening with a reception Wednesday (April 11), 5-6:30 p.m., at Millicent Rogers Museum, 1504 Millicent Rogers Road in El Prado.

Hensley is founder, artistic director, art instructor of Taos High School, University of New Mexico-Taos dual credit arts program, Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio, and a soccer coach. He challenges his teenage students to grab creativity by the horns and present it to the world as original and immediate as every breath they take. It's excellent training, he finds, for young adults embarking upon the journey into their own new worlds.

Students start developing their portfolios in the high school arts department, developing their own personality and character in their work. Hensley assigned his advanced art students first to peer deeply into "The Raven" by Poe and "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll and then to produce the work on exhibit in "Tales of the Imagination," the theme for this year's annual teen art show at the museum.

"Each of the young artists included in this exhibition spent the past year immersed in the intellectual and philosophical musings of these phantasmic creations," he said, spending endless hours "exploring and mastering the elements of drawing; making investigations and inquiries into the classic musings, the pervasiveness of how they may relate to contemporary society. How this literary work may be tastefully expressed in our current visual arts culture was a motivating force and the ultimate challenge. Emerging from the creative recesses of their imagination, this exhibition is a culmination of their triumphs in translating the written word into a visual language."

The show includes the past year's work of second and third quarter students of his fantasy art and creature design class, where students have to take a full year of artistic anatomy to qualify. The high school's art classes are dual credit classes, but the students get to attend at the high school's art studio.

"I really like the high school's art studio," he said about the program he started four years ago when he moved from adjunct professor of art with UNM to Taos High School's full-time art instructor. "I get to create my own curriculum and work with the students for four years. A number of students will take two or three classes at a time they like it so much."

He still holds Taos Arts Club at Millicent Rogers Museum in the summer, he said, and "even though it's mostly high school kids, a core of the older kids still come in the summer. Which is nice because I'll have some teens and 10 to 12-year-olds in with the older kids, I usually do a brief talk, and then they'll draw, and while they're drawing, they'll interact and help each other".

The MRM teen art show is a collaborative effort between the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio, Taos High School and the UNM-Taos dual credit program. The museum's mission includes connecting with the cultures and communities represented in its collection by engaging in community outreach and sponsoring events, such as the teen art exhibition. Additionally, it is the mission of the Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio to use art as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of youth.

"The Taos Arts Club/Teen Art Studio combines both art instruction and life skills education," exhibit press continues. "Activities help the youth in our community come into a greater awareness of the intellectual being through self-expression and creative

reasoning. The youthful artisans are encouraged to make healthy life choices for their futures while at the same time feeling a sense of community."

Many area youth are challenged by a variety of social and economic factors, and the Taos Arts Club, Teen Art Studio strives to enrich youth art education with access to quality art instruction and art studio opportunities.

The exhibit of student art will be on view through May 6.

By Virginia L. Clark
Tempo, Taos News-