

## Computer Art For You



## SELF-ADVOCATE'S CORNER

Ryan Deines of Ft. Collins, at 24 years of age, is a young man with enormous artistic talent and tenacity. He graduated from high school in 2004 and works at Foothills Gateway, the local Community Center Board. Now he lives in a host home, and thrives in a balanced life in which he can continue working, indulge in creativity, and socialize.

From the earliest surviving works of art in caves in France, marble statues in Greece and Rome, wall drawings in cliff dwellings of the Ancient Ones in Chaco Canyon, paintings on the ceiling of the Cistercian Chapel, and treasures beneath the great pyramids of North Africa, we see that artists will use



*Spirits*

whatever tools are available. In this millennium, the advent of computers has provided another art medium, computer art. Ryan Deines is one artist who has studied and worked with this modern medium, producing a fantastic body of work which is gradually becoming available to the public.

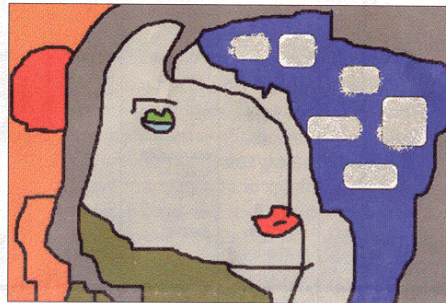
Using Photoshop and other computer software, Ryan produces stirring pictures with thought-provoking titles such as "Night of Apples," "Wooden Leaf," "Face House," and "Spirits." Many of the images he comes up with resemble still-lives, some are more abstract but extremely evocative, and others incorporate graphic letters spelling out poetry similar in simplicity and insightfulness to haiku. Affection and joy, movement and energy, insight and

profound, innocent observation...all of these are captured and given life in his works, on printed two dimensional media as much as on the computer screen.

Ryan seems to be hard wired with his talent. As a child he always liked to draw and work with clay. He had opportunities to practice art in school and at home.

When asked where he gets his inspiration, Ryan identifies many sources in his day-to-day life: his observations, feelings, and stories read or told to him.

His vast interest in music is another well-spring. Ryan enjoys, among other classic rock musicians, Eric Clapton, Elton John, Fleetwood Mac and the Beatles. One example of a piece inspired by Eric Clapton is "Tribute to Layla." In an uncanny way, some of his pictures are reminiscent of the designs on the hard covers of the Beatles album, *Yellow Submarine*. He also listens to contemporary CDs of rock, rap and country music. Some favorite music artists are George Strait and Tim McGraw.



*Tribute to Layla*

Other sources of inspiration for Ryan include computer games and DVDs. Nintendo provided impetus for his outstanding picture called "Mario's House." Paul McCartney's animated film, "Rupert and the Frog Song," led to Ryan's "Comic."



**Ryan Deines**

As a young adult, Ryan has already amassed an impressive inventory. With his mother, Patsy Maroney, acting as business manager, some of this young artist's work is reaching the public eye. His first exhibit took place before he graduated from Rocky Mountain High School, at the Ft. Collins Commission on Disabilities art show. A chance comment by an inspired patron at that event motivated him to develop a line of note cards, magnets and posters for sale.

At this point in time, Ryan and his mother are at a crossroads, debating whether to indulge his fantastic artistic gift as a hobby or transform it into a full fledged business. Eventually there may be a website, but for now Ryan's work can be found at Willow, an Artisan's Market at 5671 South Nevada Street in historic downtown Littleton as well as some regional art shows.

Art and music have always helped Ryan blossom. Computer art is the medium in which he finds productive avenues of expression. When his work is widely available to the public, the world will be a gentler and more delightful place.