

The Paradise Center Presents

Zoe Denson

Thompson Falls High School Spotlight on the Arts – June 2024



Interviewed by Gary Sanks

“Spotlight on the Arts” by The Paradise Center honors and encourages students in the arts by highlighting their talent and acknowledging the support they receive through their schools and teachers.

Zoe Denson is a great example of the youth we want to highlight. She is talented, continues to stretch her capabilities, and has produced numerous examples of what she can already do. At 15 years of age, she will be entering the 10th grade at Thompson Falls High School. Her teacher, Mr.

Micah Grossberg, the Art Education Specialist for grades 7 – 12, recognizes Zoe’s potential.

The work shown in this article is black on white or grey paper. Some of her work is created with pen or pencil and at other times using what is generally known as a “wash” technique using a brush and paint. In all her work, she achieves tone and shading through varying the density of a single color. That alone, is challenging for an artist. Yet, she portrays her subjects in naturalistic representation and captures remarkable emotional expression. We understand the emotion of each person just by looking at their face. Another challenge for an artist.

When asked about her favorite medium she quickly responds that she likes “Studio Art;” though it’s not necessarily assigned by the instructor. The term generally refers to work done in a designated indoor place. It involves using imagination, visual intelligence, and defined technical skills. Zoe said she prefers “character drawing or landscape drawing using pen or pencil.” She added that she also uses her iPad for her creativity.

Zoe said her interest in art – which started early - was a combination of seeing others do art, looking at various artists online, and simply wanting to learn. So, around the age of 10 she began to draw and discovered a love for it.

When asked what she would say to others who are interested in this type of art she responded with these statements; “I say to stick with it and continue to draw even when it doesn’t turn out like you imagined it. Practice, practice, and practice some more.”

I believe this young artist will do well in the future as she hopes to become a commissioned artist. She also stated that her parents encourage her art and when I visited with her mother on the phone, she stated that “Zoe is at her drawing desk all the time.” Zoe, we all wish you the very best as you continue to grow and learn in the artistic field of your choice.