

At Groves High

Students' art fills special niche

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

The newest work of art in the Groves High School media center is special. And the fact that it is a painting by Faye Cleveland, a sophomore special education student at Groves, makes it even more special.

The painting was presented to the Groves staff at a recent faculty meeting and has been hung in the media center.

Students and faculty members are recognized "for worthwhile things" regularly at staff meetings, according to Roger Matson, Groves art teacher.

"But this is the first time anyone can remember a special-ed student getting this kind of recognition," he added.

"I felt her painting was an outstanding work of art by any standard," Matson said. "I don't judge it from the standard of a special-ed student but as a work of art."

FAYE'S PAINTING has a "freshness and unique vision not everybody has," Matson said. "If Dubuffet (Jean, French painter) had done it it would be worth a fortune."

He described the painting as "intuitive and spontaneous, something that you can't erase." Faye is in a beginning drawing class taught by Matson and will take two art classes next semester.

All of the students painted the still life scene which Matson set up for

them using objects the students had brought to class.

The scene included a bicycle, a stuffed crocodile, ice skates, chairs, a doll, two dresses, a hat "and everything else," Faye said.

The painting is the best she has ever done, she believes. She took art courses at Berkshire Junior High but has never studied art outside of school.

"I DO IT just because I like it," Faye said. She uses water colors and magic markers, mostly, and paints "anything," including still life and outdoor scenes.

The rest of the class learned from Faye what it means to be spontaneous in their work, Matson said.

Her confidence was an inspiration to all of my classes. Look at some of the artists today, they are spontaneous like that and hers is even more personal and direct.

"I had the painting in my living room for a while and I framed it over vacation," he added. "I hated to bring it back but I thought she deserved recognition for what she had done and the more personal things we can put out around the school the more we can humanize the school."

Faye's parents were present when her painting was given to the school and were obviously moved by the recognition their daughter received, Matson said.



Faye Cleveland's painting is 'an outstanding work of art by any standard,' her teacher, Roger Matson says. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

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