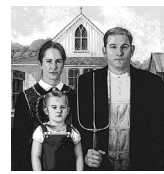


Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



Michelle Bates, aspiring artist

Recently, Michelle Bates, a college fine arts major, visited the The Steeple Gallery.

Originally from St. John, Bates attended Lowell High School. She is currently pursuing her last semester at Columbia College in Chicago with a fine art degree in photography.

I asked Michelle if she could explain in her own words why she feels compelled to create art.

"I am twenty-five years old and I've been creating art for as long as I have childhood memories. It's the only thing that makes sense to me, for me to do. I have a wide array of interests, and see the opportunity for art in nearly every facet of the world. I have a lot to say and enjoy relating my work to a diverse group of people.

My parents have always been huge supporters of my

vision and have always encouraged me to use my talent.

My father has always told me that there is almost nothing sadder than talent wasted.

I create art for myself, as an outlet, and as a means to communicate with the world — to be an active participant and to give something back.

I knew as a child that I wanted to study art.

My aunt Kelly, an established artist, always supplied me with the means to exercise my visual voice. I owe her tremendous appreciation for giving me a glimpse of footsteps to follow.

When it came time to pursue a higher education, I knew art school was the right place for me. I chose Columbia College of Chicago for their reputation as a school of photography and have found my liberal arts education and study there to be a plethora of inspira-

tion and knowledge. I am a photographer and a mixed media artist. I love the opportunity to combine my images with the messy experience of paint and found materials.

Commission work is something that I have done and will continue to create. I also write free-verse poetry and am inspired by books, movies, music, conversations, friends, family and loved ones. I love making art. That is why I create."

You may contact Michelle at chellebates@groovy.com for more information on her freelance work and commissions.

The Steeple Gallery encourages young artists to follow their dreams.

Do you know any aspiring visual artists in the area? E-mail samowner@sbcglobal.net.

Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski owns The Steeple Gallery, Ltd. in St. John.

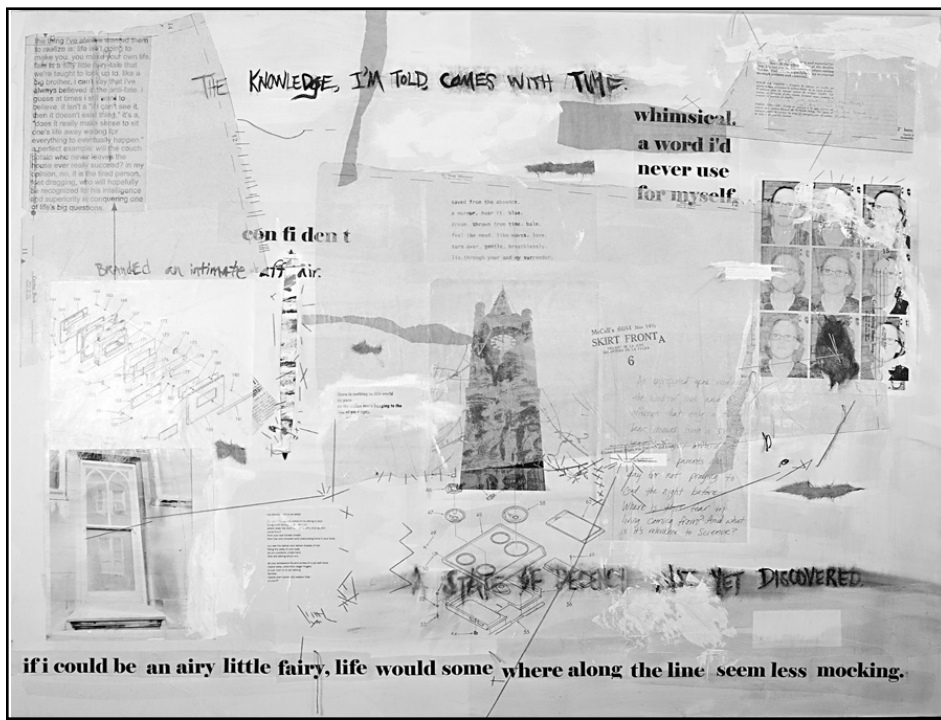
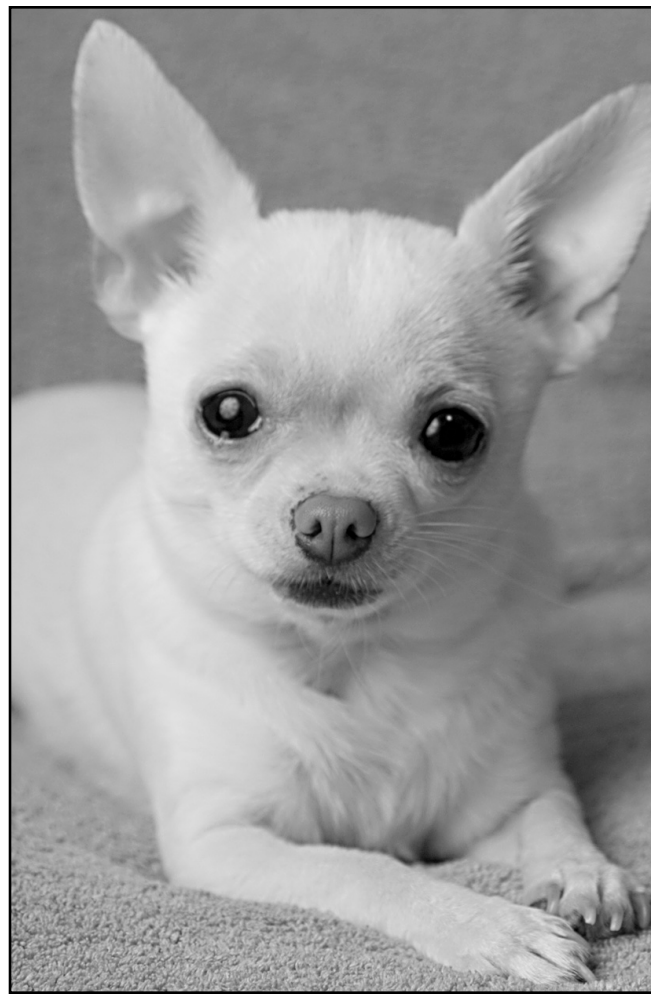
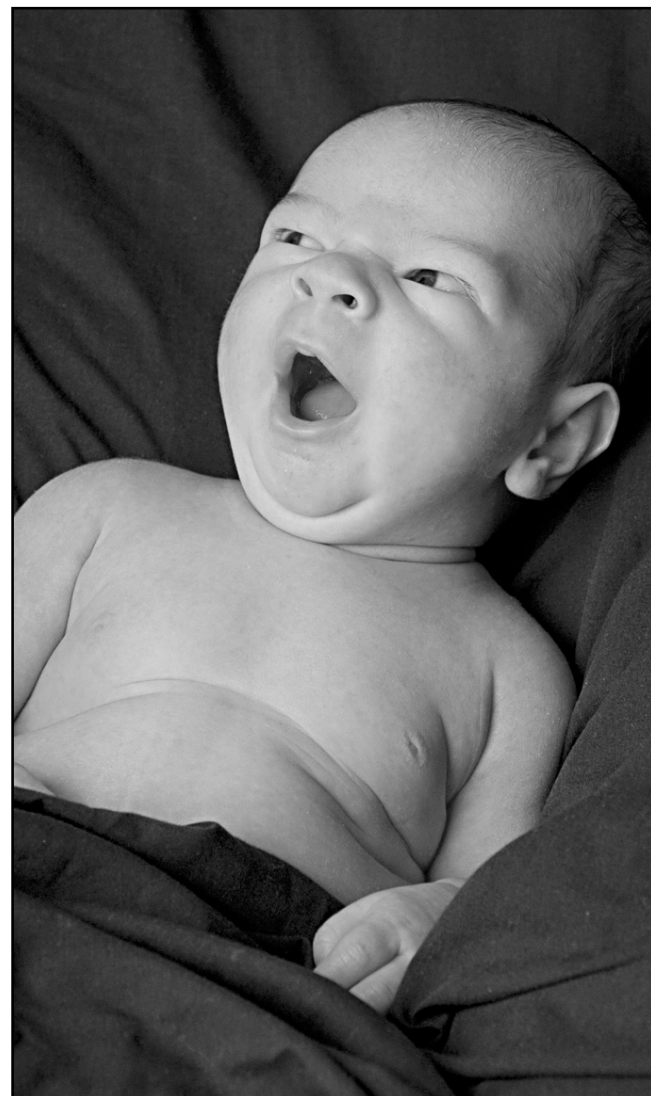
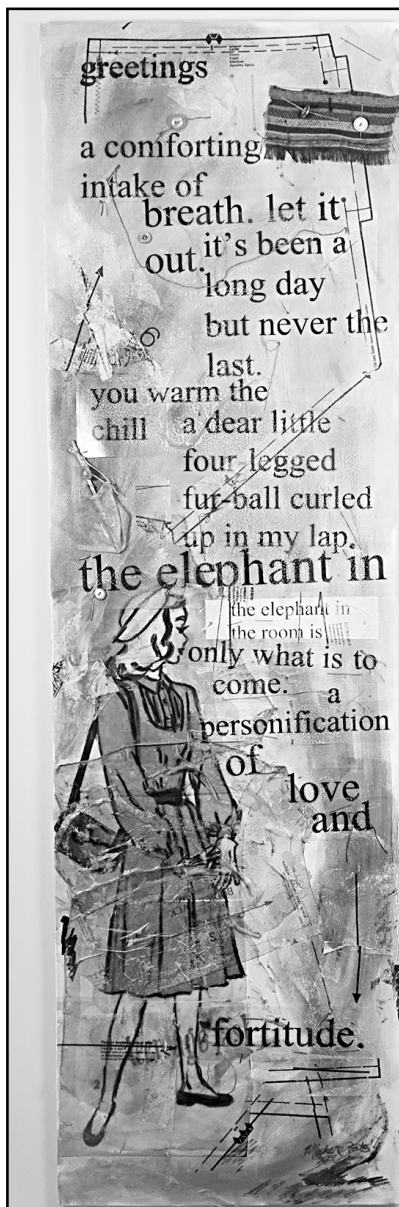


Photo provided to the Star Michelle Bates, artist in several mediums, has garnered inspiration for her creations from a variety of outlets, such as family, films, books, poetry and other artists. Bates is pursuing a fine arts degree in photography from Columbia College in Chicago. Shown here, is a sample of her completed pieces of photography and art, including portraits of a baby, a pet Chihuahua, and collages depicting knowledge and fortitude. Bates has completed a variety of commercial work for several clients in the area.