



NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

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Arlington senior lets her art do the talking

by Kate Goldsmith

LAGRANGE—Arlington High School senior Emily Kofsky is a quiet young lady with a warm smile. Her unassuming demeanor belies some serious talent as a painter, one with several awards already under her belt and about a dozen scholarship offers from art schools.

Emily is one of the success stories coming out of Mill Street Loft's arts programs.

"I began in the Dutchess Arts Camp when I was in first grade, and went from there to the Junior Art Institute in the ninth grade, and the advanced programs started in the 10th grade," she said.

"Emily sets up quietly and gets to work on the project she's doing," said Todd Poteet, director of the Art Institute of Mill Street Loft, who has known Emily since around 2008. "Over the years I've watched her really transform from being quiet in her artwork to, in the last two years, making statements. She started to allow her voice, what she felt about the world, to be reflected through her art."

One of those works, "Sugar Addict," was a Jurors' Special Merit winner in The Cleveland Institute of Art's recent 2D3D National Art + Competition Design. The painting depicts a woman sitting in a chair and injecting soda into her arm with a hypodermic needle. Two-liter bottles of Coca-Cola and Pepsi, as well as used syringes, are strewn around the woman.

"I typically paint from references, often myself, or have people pose for me. 'Sugar Addict' is my mom," said Emily.

"Sugar Addict' deals with how those nutritional things destroy our life," said Poteet. "Emily feels strongly about those things. She might not be able to have a conversation about it."

Emily recently was awarded a number of honors in the 2014 Scholastic Art Awards, a national program that is the largest source of scholarships for college-bound artists. (See page 14 of the Creative Living section for information about other



Arlington High School senior Emily Kofsky is surrounded by paintings from her award-winning portfolio. The painting on the left is called a zipper painting, which contains a hidden component that is revealed when the "zipper" portion of the painting is lifted. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

local winners.) Her painting, "Inside Out and Upside Down," received a gold medal; another painting, "Read the Fine Print," won a silver medal; and her portfolio work earned a silver medal.

A specialty of Emily's is the "zipper painting," one which is pictured on the cover, to the left of Emily.

"The zipper painting is really interesting," said Poteet. "She came to us with an idea of doing a hidden component in painting. She's done a few of them."

Asked about the definable traits of Emily's work, Poteet said, "She's painterly in her approach, uses a very definite style.

Her work is paced at a slow pace, not filled with unnecessary energy. There's a pensiveness; occasionally there's this little playfulness tucked in there. She's not always serious, and it's fun to see these quiet little bits of humor."

Emily prefers to paint with acrylics, because they dry quickly.

"I like being able to make mistakes and easily fix them and go over them," she said.

Emily usually begins with a sketch and gets feedback from her classmates at The Art Institute as well as Poteet, "and from there I do the painting."

Her palette favors muted colors, which

has gotten mixed reviews from art school representatives who have reviewed her portfolio.

"Some schools, they like it. Some schools tell me 'use more color.' Some schools like strange things," Emily said.

"Probably her greatest struggles are in her color relationships," said Poteet. "She's been trying to build up that color; it's funny, but her color is more like her personality. She can't let her color shout and scream [because that's not who she is]."

Poteet said Emily is aware of her weaknesses and how to work on them.

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Clarification on PSC terms topic of technical conference

by Danielle Fried

Editor's note: This story is one in a series focusing on the current impacts of the high-voltage power lines proposed to relieve an identified transmission bottleneck between Leeds and Pleasant Valley.

Representatives from the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) appeared before the Public Service Commission (PSC) at a technical conference on March 19. The purpose of the conference was to address questions raised by developers and interested parties regarding the NYISO's method of evaluating proposals submitted to resolve the identified transmission bottleneck between Leeds and Pleasant Valley.

The conference represents a recent development in the PSC's process to approve a project to relieve transmission bottleneck between Leeds to Pleasant

Valley.

The request for clarification arose after the PSC ordered developers to modify their proposals to stay within existing rights-of-way to the maximum extent possible. Three of the four proposals involved expanding rights-of-way so that land and homes would be lost to eminent domain. Developers agreed to modify their proposals, but requested three points of clarification from the PSC, including an opportunity for them to understand fully the NYISO process for evaluating their proposals.

The NYISO explained that their process evaluates reliability in accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirements. They went on to clarify confusion regarding the difference between what was termed "economic congestion" versus "physical congestion."

The difference is related to the new capacity zone proposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The connection between the two energy proposals has been debated among interested parties for months.

Paul Gioia, a lawyer representing several, large energy companies such as Consolidated Edison and New York Power Authority, offered clarifying statements. Gioia said FERC's new capacity zone is proposed to resolve economic congestion, not improve system reliability or transmission capability. The new capacity zone establishes an additional market for new generators to sell their product.

The AC transmission upgrade proceeding — which called on developers to submit proposals to relieve the Leeds to Pleasant Valley transmission bottleneck — attempts to improve system reliability and transmission capacity.

The PSC must determine which criteria to use when approving a project, but the NYISO stated definitively that they evaluate

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