

PAINTING THE WORLD THROUGH *Rose-Colored Glasse*

THE ART OF 14-YEAR-OLD SARAH CROFT

Written by Kimberly Horg



Sarah Croft is an optimist. She observes the brighter side of life and then paints it in bright colors for all to see. The Roseville-area resident may not be old enough to drive or get her work permit, but at the age of 14, she's already bypassed the minimum-wage jobs and sold her paintings to local art collectors.

The prodigious young artist has entered her work in numerous contests and won awards ranging from honorable mentions and best of shows. Recently, she entered a painting in the Roseville Arts' Art in the Garden Home and Garden Tour and won best of show for her painting "Pollyanna's Prisms." The painting was inspired by the book *Pollyanna*, which she read and liked so much that she decided to paint a tribute



to this inspiring story. She also won first place for her painting "Imagine that," of a girl with a book looking skyward as if imagining something wonderful she had just read. "I love to look at something, whether it be plain air or from a photograph, and put it onto canvas. I like painting anything that I see that is lovely, good, or has merit. I paint it especially if it has a lot of variety in the colors and composition," Croft says.

The up-and-coming painter was born in Utah and moved to Placer County with her mom, Elizabeth; dad, Curtis; and older sister, Rebecca, when she was five years old. A couple of years later, her talent was discovered by friends and family when she sketched a ballerina. "I really got into the painting," Croft says. "My mom could see that I was able to draw things as they were at a young age. The following year, I start-



there, out in the kitchen nook, available for me to paint with whenever I feel inspired." She is friends with other homeschool students in the area and spends time either hanging out or enjoying some of her other favorite pastimes, which include soccer and playing the piano.

Her mother says she is thrilled for her daughter and thinks her paintings are incredible. "My jaw drops like everyone else's does over her work," she says. Sarah was mentored by her grandma and aunt, who are also artists and live in Utah. When she goes back to visit, Sarah spends most of her time painting with her fellow artist family members. She has done a couple of paintings of her grandma's house, with different people and animals appearing in the backdrop. One of her paintings is of her cat, Leo da Vinci, and there's also a self-portrait beside a rock-wall flowerbed at her grandparents' house.

She enjoys portraying the beauty in life, and flowers definitely fall into that category. Several of her paintings feature different varieties of flowers. She is fond of flowers but doesn't have a particular favorite flower. To her, it is not so much about the type of flower as the colors and values that she sees.

"Sometimes in the early morning, flowers take on a look that catches my eye and I photograph them," she explains.

The painter says that she appreciates a lot of different art, including the work of a legendary artist, Monet. Sarah and her mom study art and read art books together. Elizabeth Croft hopes that she can encourage her daughter in the right way to help her grow. "I want to go as far as I can with my art," Sarah Croft says. "I plan to go to college and major in fine art and bring others joy with my art, whether it be me teaching and mentoring or displaying my art in various places." **IRM**

