

## Artist in a new residence



Danbury High student Bonnie Harriman adds details to her still life after listening to advice from a professional artist.



Weir Farm artist-in-residence Daniel Hauben, left, looks at Lamar Staton's work during a still life session in art class Friday at Danbury High School.

## Weir Farm program puts pro at DHS

By Eileen FitzGerald  
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"Don't get caught up in picky details. Work the whole page." Bronx artist Daniel Hauben said as he peered over the shoulders of art students at Danbury High School early Friday morning.

Jazz played softly in the background.

"The approach is to try to get the whole picture at once. The details are the very last thing. Keep that in mind."

The students in Major Studio Art II murmured occasionally to each other, but mostly concentrated on the still life paintings before them. Maple branches, an amber bottle, a trombone and trumpet, a chair, material and flowers offered a menagerie of textures and shapes.

"Remember, work with shapes and relationships. It's like a picture out of focus that is coming slowly into focus," Hauben said.

Hauben left the urban landscapes of the Bronx to paint the rural Connecticut countryside as an artist in residence at Weir Farm in Ridgefield



Hauben helps Alicia Quinones with a suggestion about an outline. A new program teams professional artists with students.

and Wilton last July.

Now, he's part of an educational outreach program piloted by Weir Farm called Brushes with History. He teaches the Danbury High art class two days a week for 11 sessions. At the end of the series of classes, the students will visit Weir Farm.

"It's kind of difficult, but it's been a lot of fun," sophomore Michelle Stabile, 15, said as she worked on her picture. "We've been working with new

techniques. I never worked with pastels before, and I've learned about midtones and how to make things jump out of the page."

Hauben has taught her to consider the whole sheet of paper.

"When you put lines down it's like a map, he said, so you know where you're going," Stabile said.

The Major Studio Art II course explores many media, said senior Bonnie Harriman. Hauben introduced her to pastels.

"I've realized there is a lot more room for error. You can fix your mistakes if things

aren't perfect. It's a very flexible material, so you can get things how you want them," Harriman said.

She's impressed with the artist. "He's someone I can look up to. I'm glad for the chance to meet him," she said.

Weir Farm National Historic Site has inspired artists for more than a century. Contemporary artists make