

# Artist takes on urban landscapes ... with just a brush stroke

By SIMONE JOHNSON

Daniel Hauben didn't exactly grow up next to the Hudson River, but his Bronx rearing inspired the artist to capture urban life on campus.

"The world I was surrounded by during my formative years while I was becoming an artist were important," Hauben said. "Had I lived in the country somewhere, I would be painting more trees. I draw from the world around me, and the world around me was encrusted in the Bronx."

There was a time when RiverFest had only one artist who single-handedly brought finer culture to the festival. That lone artist's name was Hauben, so it made sense that now the festival's artist community has grown, he would serve as curator of the exhibit.

As the curator, Hauben's main goal is to gather as many Bronx artists as he can, not only to diversify the exhibit, but also to allow artists to network with one another.

For himself, however, Hauben's weapons of choice include chalk pastels and oil paint, because they are what he considers "forgiving mediums."

"I like to be as free in the beginning as possible and then fix my mistakes as I go," Hauben said. "All the greatest paintings were painted in oil."

Hauben also teaches drawing classes for adults and works with senior citizens. He teaches summer courses at Bronx Community College and an architecture course at City College of New York.

As an art teacher, Hauben encourages his students to attend the festival and, of course, draw while they



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are there.

Other artists selling and presenting their work at RiverFest include Suzanne Axelbank, Evan Bishop, Daniel DelValle, Dennis Redmoon Darkeem, Ray Lopez, Ira Merritt, Andrea Ramsey, Ignacio Soltero, Jennifer Tomaiolo, Dennesa Usher, Katori Walker, Cinnamon Willis and Marcelo Zappi.

Right now, Hauben is working on a picture of the view from his home's terrace. His focus is to let the piece grow as organically as possible.

"Art is a vehicle for channeling your spirit," Hauben said.

"When people are devoted to that form of expression, that is what inspires others. And I know that I have been so inspired by the work of these great artists."



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