



Courtesy photo

Ashburnham resident Justin McGonigle stands with his work "Sticks and Stones," which is among the paintings to be displayed at the Stevens Memorial Library.

'An exploration of the human soul'

Stevens Memorial Library hosting display of artist McGonigle's work

BY KERRY O'BRIEN
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ASHBURNHAM — The paintings of town resident Justin McGonigle will be on display at the Stevens Memorial Library's Malcolm C. Stewart Community Room throughout the month of October.

"I think it's great that I can display my work in the town that I live in," Mr. McGonigle said. "I'm very pleased that the Stevens Memorial Library has a gallery space where local artists can display their work, and really appreciate them for providing

local artists an opportunity to use it."

Mr. McGonigle has been creating works of art for nearly 20 years. A self-taught painter, he first began with drawings while watching television as a child.

"I learned to draw from watching Captain Bob," Mr. McGonigle said. "He taught me how to see objects as shapes, and how to render those shapes to form a picture of the object. I've developed my skills by drawing a lot of pictures and painting a lot of paintings."

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Artist to show work at Stevens Library

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Mr. McGonigle says his work has been constantly evolving and improving. His first painting was done in Seattle on a stretched canvas someone had thrown away.

"The painting I did in Seattle was more like a drawing done on canvas," he said. "It lacked any sort of blending of color or spatial relation that a painting can offer. It wasn't until I kept at it that my painting skills developed. I recently looked at that Seattle painting again and it looked crudely done compared to the work I do now."

Over the years, Mr. McGonigle says he has created more than 200 works of art. His work has been displayed numerous venues in New Bedford, Fitchburg, Plymouth, Gardner, Nashua, N.H., and Atlanta, and is also part of many private collections found in the United States.

"With paint, I attempt to capture my inner spirit," he said. "I use paint and the pictorial form to illustrate my feelings about a particular subject at a particular time and place. This subject could be a human emotion, the way in which I feel about someone, my thoughts about a favorite place to be or any number of things. I use color, form and the brush stroke and arrange it onto a two-dimensional space to create a picture that resembles my feelings about my subject. My paintings are an exploration of the human soul and how it relates to the world."

Stevens Memorial Library is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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