

For a smile, check out Wil's cutouts



*About 100
artists to show
work downtown
this Saturday*

By DEAN A. RADFORD
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William Kerner is 12, but already he's an accomplished artist, using just scissors and construction paper or heavy card stock to create his cutout art.

The inspiration for his abstract artwork is perhaps a mystery. His work brings Picasso to mind.

But there's a clue. Wil is autistic. He may draw his ideas from the videos and DVDs that he watches through the eyes of an autistic child.

Whatever his inspiration, Wil's artwork affects people.

"It just makes people smile," said his grandmother, Susan Mooring of Renton.

Wil is among the 100 or so artists who will display their works Saturday throughout downtown Renton from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the Second Annual Downtown Renton Art & Antique Walk.

About 50 businesses are par-

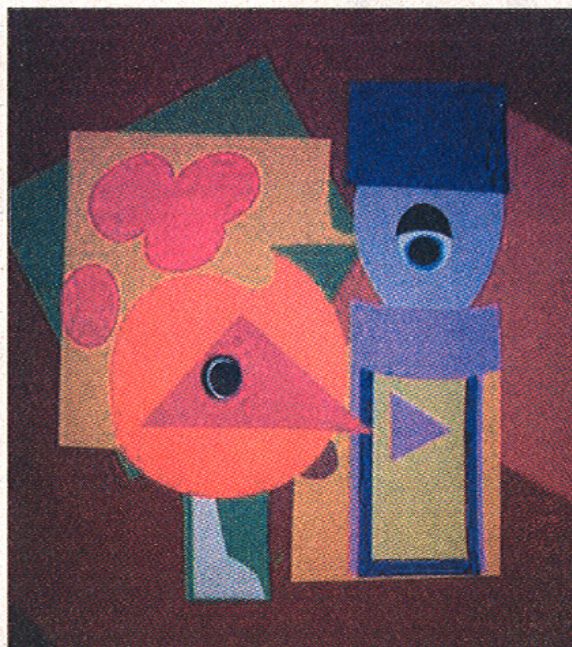
William Kerner, 12, of Renton, who is autistic, will display his cutouts, artwork made with scissors and construction paper, at Saturday's Second Annual Downtown Renton Art & Antique Walk.

Gary Kissel/Renton Reporter

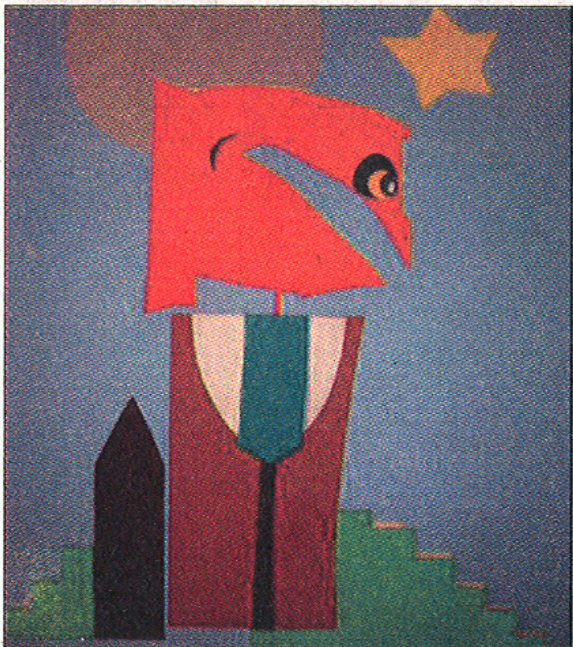
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Dog and Boy



Pals



Rat



Buddies

WIL: The art walk starts at Piazza

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ticipating in the event, displaying artwork and antiques and offering nibbles. The walk starts on the Piazza at South Third Street and Burnett Avenue South, where maps are available to show the way.

The artwork includes photography, acrylics, Japanese ink painting, watercolors, batik, wheel thrown pottery, wood-carvings, ink, charcoal, oils, purses, stained glass, fabric, jewelry, metal and stones, wool products, pastels, mosaics, textiles and ceramics.

And Wil's paper cutouts. His artwork will be on display at Common Ground Coffee and Cupcakes. His grandmother said she's not sure how long Wil will stay at the shop.

Wil is the son of Debra and Wilfried Kerner of Renton. During the week, his grandmother cares for him. He is home-schooled.

The family learned Wil was autistic when he was 2.

Wil got his artistic start with Play Doh when he was about 9. Mooring said the family regularly bought out the Play Doh and anything to do with Play Doh at the local Target store.

"We would load up a cart until it was overfull," said Mooring.

Wil's Website

To learn more about 12-year-old William Kerner, go to his Website, <http://wilspaper-cutouts.com/>

Later, his occupational therapist worked with Wil on how to use scissors, a way to teach fine motor skills. He still grips the scissors, rather than holding them using the handles.

According to Mooring, he started making "swift little cuts."

Then came a trip to Costco, where Wil threw a bunch of construction paper into the cart. That was the end of the Play Doh, according to Mooring. His art career was born.

His artwork, said Mooring, is "his own abstract renditions of what he sees." His cutouts include one-eyed characters.

His artwork may provide Wil with a job in the future and for sure a social outlet, says his grandmother. She has a canopy for the art shows he'll attend and she hopes he'll sit there with her and sell his artwork himself.

"As he grows, he may discover that this is a good job for him," Mooring said.

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