



Art skills being challenged

VAN WERT, OH (NWPR) – After several months away, **Pat Rayman** resumed art education classes at the *Challenged Higher Drop-In Center* located in the northeast corridor of this city. “Even though I have taught for many decades, I still get those first day jitters,” said Rayman.

Those participating in this beginning drawing session, worked with ‘still-life’ objects were: **Cadence Baker, Carol Mowery, Brandy Robison, Douglas Wood, Gregg Magner, JJ, Jade, Cindy and Robin Hurt.** “I am always intrigued how they begin their drawing to capture a likeness. Some start at the top, others bottom,” said Rayman.



A person typically learns foundational skills like drawing simple lines and shapes, understanding light and shadow, and developing hand-eye coordination through observational drawing. They might also be introduced to concepts like perspective, proportions, and how to break down complex shapes into simpler ones.

Besides teaching children in school settings, adults at art centers, workshops and private instructions, Rayman has taught art academics at the university level. “I only used the textbook for reference. The students always seemed to stay awake when I would tell them more personal things I found about an artist such as Edward Hopper.” Rayman indicated that facts and figures can get humdrum.



Hopper’s boyhood home is in Nyack, New Jersey, under thirty miles from where Rayman grew-up in North Haledon-Passaic. In her earlier years, she has visited his home and found its interior reflected his works marked by minimalism, silence, and a sense of ambiguity. His home is now the *Edward Hopper House Art Center*.

Considered on his best-known work, “*Nighthawks*” is an oil on canvas created in 1942. The painting (shown next page) portrays four people in a downtown diner late at night, viewed through the large glass window, and the light coming from the diner illuminates a darkened and deserted urban streetscape is a stark example of loneliness and alienation. *Continued next page*

When asked to Rayman about what is her style, "Whether making art or academics, it is more show and tell. I provide the samples. I want them to create with their own ideas, but giving them some guidance if stuck."

Art student **Douglas Wood** was asked why he chose his 3-D object to draw. He said, "I like a challenge!" Others like **Carol Mowery** put her skills to test using colored pencil. **Cadence Baker** captured the heart of "Lovey" with her teddy bear work. "All-in-all, I found the art students let their creativity flow, and it showed," added Rayman.

In the past, the Challenged students have also worked with various media, ink, clay, Watercolor on paper as well as painted on other found objects. Currently, classes are on Thursdays, starting at 1:00 pm.

