

## LEWIS COUNTY LOCALS: *Vader Art Instructor Thelma Hauge*



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Instructor Thelma Hauge, left, works with student Mary Chmelik during an art class at Book 'n' Brush in Chehalis last week. To see more local photographs, go to [www.chronline.com/gallery/](http://www.chronline.com/gallery/).

### ART CLASSES WITH THELMA HAUGE

At the Book 'n' Brush, downtown Chehalis. Call 748-6221 for more information.

- Oil Painting – Wednesdays from 3:45 to 6 p.m.
- Pastel Drawing – Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m.

At Thelma's studio at 165 Hendrickson Road, Vader. Call 295-3488 for more information.

- Oil Painting – Mondays, 1-3 p.m.
- Oil Painting – Tuesdays, 12:45 to 2:45 p.m.

Classes prices range from \$65 for 8 weeks at her Vader studio to \$75 for 6 weeks at the Book 'n' Brush classroom in Chehalis.

Art instructor Thelma Hauge said she doesn't want the costs of getting started in oil painting to keep a prospective student from taking her classes. It costs about \$75 to buy all of the materials on the class supply list, Hauge said, but don't let that stop you.

"If you are concerned about the cost of getting started in oil painting," said Hauge, "come talk to me. I can make it happen for you. We have scholarships available and donated supplies to get you started."

# The Art and Craft of Teaching Artists

By Kimberly Mason

For The Chronicle

Quiet laughter spilled over the balcony from the second floor of the Book 'n' Brush bookstore in downtown Chehalis last Wednesday afternoon as the students of Thelma Hauge's weekly oil painting class set up their easels and got settled in for a couple of hours of casual instruction and camaraderie.

Thirteen-year-old Brielle Black, Chehalis, has been a student since she was 9.

"If she sticks with art," said her teacher, Hauge, "she's going to be amazing. She's fearless with her art."

The clearly bright and well-spoken Brie seemed to be fearless with most things, including interviews.

As The Chronicle arrived in the classroom, Brie had just finished painting on the final glaze to her latest finished piece — Brie's interpretation of her "after" X-ray of her rod-straightened back, the X-ray view taken after scoliosis surgery in black, white and shades of gray.

The un-identical twin to the painting, the "before" X-ray of her formerly curved spine, is already hanging on the wall at Seattle's Children's Hospital. Brie said the painting in her hand was destined for the same wall.

### Not Your Average Fruit Bowl

Alma Hartman, Chehalis, has been an oil painting student since October when she decided to switch from the drawing class and try another art form.

"There's no pressure here," said Hartman, "not like there is in a college class. No deadlines. It's one-on-one, very personal instruction at a gentle pace."

Hartman's first painting under Hauge's tutelage was a single pear; she has painted three other smaller paintings since.

"I decide what I want to do, and she helps me do it," said Hartman. "Although (Hauge) has an idea where she wants me to go with my art and technique, she always keeps my suggestions in mind."

Hauge says she will take a beginning student through the process of getting started with their first painting, holding their hand all the way.

"I walk them through the process, but my whole goal is to hand the reins over to them, bit by bit," Hauge said.

Hartman worked on a colorful still life picture of a bowl of fruit.

"She just loves my orange," laughed Hartman.

"Just look at the dimples in that

orange," Hauge said with enthusiasm, "they're just so beautiful!"

### Connecting With Creativity

Mary Chmelik, Chehalis, has been a student of Hauge's for about three years. She finds the classes relaxing and refreshing.

"When in the rest of your life you are doing analytical work, this (painting) really helps me to relax," said Chmelik. "Painting puts you in a whole different world, it puts you in touch with your creative side."

Hauge believes in making art fun.

"If you are having fun," Hauge said, "you're going to do better."

"I don't 'announce' that I'm teaching something," Hauge added. "We are just playing, so it doesn't feel like work. I teach them without their even knowing they are being taught ... a little color theory, a little history and a little technique along the way."

Hauge said that many of her new students come to her and say that painting is something they have wanted to try their whole life,

**"I don't believe in talent. I believe in skill, and skill is learned. And you need to have the passion for it. If you want to do it, you'll become good at it."**

Thelma Hauge  
Vader painter  
and art instructor



Brielle Black, 13, reflects upon her empty canvas during a March 2 art class at Book 'n' Brush in Chehalis.

but hadn't had the time or the talent or the courage to try.

"I don't believe in talent," said Hauge. "I believe in skill, and skill is learned. And you need to have the passion for it. If you want to do it, you'll become good at it."

### A Passion for Painting

Brianna Dykman, Centralia, has been a student of Hauge's for over a year.

Dykman started in the class with simple shapes, she said. Her second work was a large painting of a touching and elegant swan, seen reflected in a pool of gentle blues and greens. She pointed to it with pride.

"She just won't let me quit," said Dykman, smiling as she lifted her brush momentarily from the canvas. "I want to become a better painter and she won't let me give up on myself."

"Art is an expression. If it touches a feeling in you, it's art," said Hauge. "I just provide the venue for people to create art."

You don't have to be a beginner to take Hauge's classes, she said.

"I'm more than happy to have experienced students," said Hauge. "I love to take classes; it keeps me stimulated as an artist. There's always more than one way to do things. It's always good to keep learning."