

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

FACES OF YOUTH



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

Matthew Chase-Daniel carries a ladder he's using to help glue large portraits of teens to the wall of Warehouse 21 in Santa Fe. Featured teens here are, from left, Quill Chase-Daniel (Matthew's son), Owen Bradbury and brother Aldan Bradbury.



From left, Gabriel Coles-Christensen, 13, Matthew Chase-Daniel and Anne Staveley glue large portraits of Santa Fe teens to the west wall of Warehouse 21 Wednesday.

Photographer's Large Portraits Hang on Warehouse 21 Wall

By KATHALEEN ROBERTS
Journal Staff Writer

Noses wriggle, lips purse and arms flail on a giant's scale.

Photographer Anne Staveley's latest portraits loom from the west wall of Warehouse 21, a gallery of 18 10-foot-tall black-and-white youthful faces grinning, pouting and scrunching above the rocky field facing Camino de la Familia.

The Santa Fe-born, Rhode Island School of Design-educated photographer had always dreamed of working large. She had been gazing at the wall on a daily basis as she dropped her two children off at Wood Gormley Elementary School.

"It's so amazing to see photographs that big —

If you go

WHAT: West wall portrait gallery by Anne Staveley

WHERE: Warehouse 21, 1614 Paseo de Peralta

WHEN: Reception 5-7 p.m. Friday

CONTACT: 989-4423

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EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

Photographer Anne Staveley, left, and Matthew Chase-Daniel glue 10-foot portraits of area teenagers to a wall at Warehouse 21.

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especially the faces," Staveley said. "I was looking for faces to have expressions — sad, mad; lots of hands in the photos. I'm trying to capture the mood of the teen."

The oversized installation depicts a wide array of Santa Fe youth.

The subjects range from ages 11 to 17; to find them Staveley turned — where else? — to her own children, Cree, 16, and Cypress, 11.

The photographer launched the project with a \$500 donation from Gerald Peters Gallery.

She shot the portraits using the natural light behind her Santa Fe home studio, stage-managing the

posing and positioning like a budding director, urging her subjects to emote, to hug or ponder the possibilities.

"I always direct," she said. "Being a portrait photographer, I know that most people freeze up."

Staveley and her assistants, Matthew Chase-Daniel of Axle Contemporary and 13-year-old Gabriel Coles-Christensen, swabbed rolls of paste as thick as oatmeal onto the walls before smoothing out the cut-out faces and torsos into the glue. A spring wind ruffled the paper; waiting portraits had to be anchored to the ground by rocks. The recipe formed after at least four attempts failed; a concoction of flour, water, seaweed powder glue

and sugar was the winner. The artist will de-install it with a power washer.

Staveley nurtured a passion for photography watching the cloud of chemicals sharpen into clear images while she sat in her mother's darkroom at age 10.

When someone handed her an old folding camera, she began by photographing her family. Today she works as a staff photographer for THE Magazine and as a portrait photographer in Santa Fe and around the U.S. She prefers "timeless" black and white, mostly portraits.

"I like the interaction with the person," she said. "I try to get someone to show their sparkle in a short amount of time."

"People will always ask if I'll photograph their artwork," she added. "I'll say, 'Only if you're standing next to it.'"

Next Staveley is off to Vancouver and Washington state to shoot commissioned portraits of musicians, families and professionals. After that, she'll head for New York.

"I have lots of shoots there; I've just been reluctant to go," she said.

She says her gallery of teens will hang until it deteriorates with the elements.

"I'd be really bummed out if we get it all up and they tag it," she said. "If they put mustaches on it, I'd be really bummed. I think they'll respect it once we get it all hung up."