

SOUTH BOSTON

The Boston Globe

For Earth Day, the painters' palettes were entirely green

April 22, 2007

The materials might be recycled, but the art is all new.

Last night, Artists for Humanity was scheduled to kick off its exhibition "Beauty and Art in Nature" with a party and fund-raiser commemorating Earth Day.

The exhibit, at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter in South Boston, features artwork by more than 120 city teens on an Earth Day theme. Works include paintings, sculpture, photography, clothing, and video. Everything produced by Artists for Humanity studios uses environmentally friendly materials.

In addition to the main show, eight college-bound seniors created a special exhibit of large-format paintings with a mandala design theme. The paintings were to be auctioned off opening night, with proceeds supporting each artist's college ambitions.

"They represent, using the round form, the continuum of life and the earth's future," says Susan Rodgerson, executive/artistic director of the artist group. "It's very exciting how unique each one is and how the perspective reflects something deeply personal about each one of them."

Artists for Humanity employs teens at its five studios, where they perform work-for-hire art jobs for clients. Artists work 9 to 12 hours a week. They are paid by the hour and receive a commission on sales.

Artists for Humanity participants must be ages 14 to 18 and enrolled in Boston public schools. More information on the program and the Earth Day exhibition is available on afh.boston.com or by calling 617-268-7620. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through June. The AFH EpiCenter is at 100 W. Second St.

J.M. BERGER ■