

F O R T W A Y N E

# Living

A LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FROM THE PUBLISHER OF *BUSINESS PEOPLE*

*adam gayer*  
PAINTING PRODIGY

EYEWEAR FOR MEN & WOMEN

FORT WAYNE'S PRIVATE  
GOLF CLUBS

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AUGUST-OCTOBER 2007



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### PAINTING PRODIGY

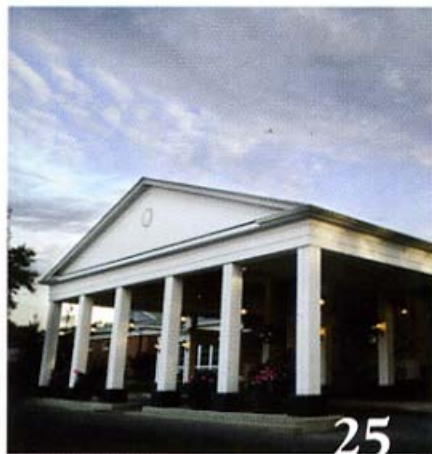
Thirteen-year-old Adam Gayer wows the art community with his extraordinary talent.



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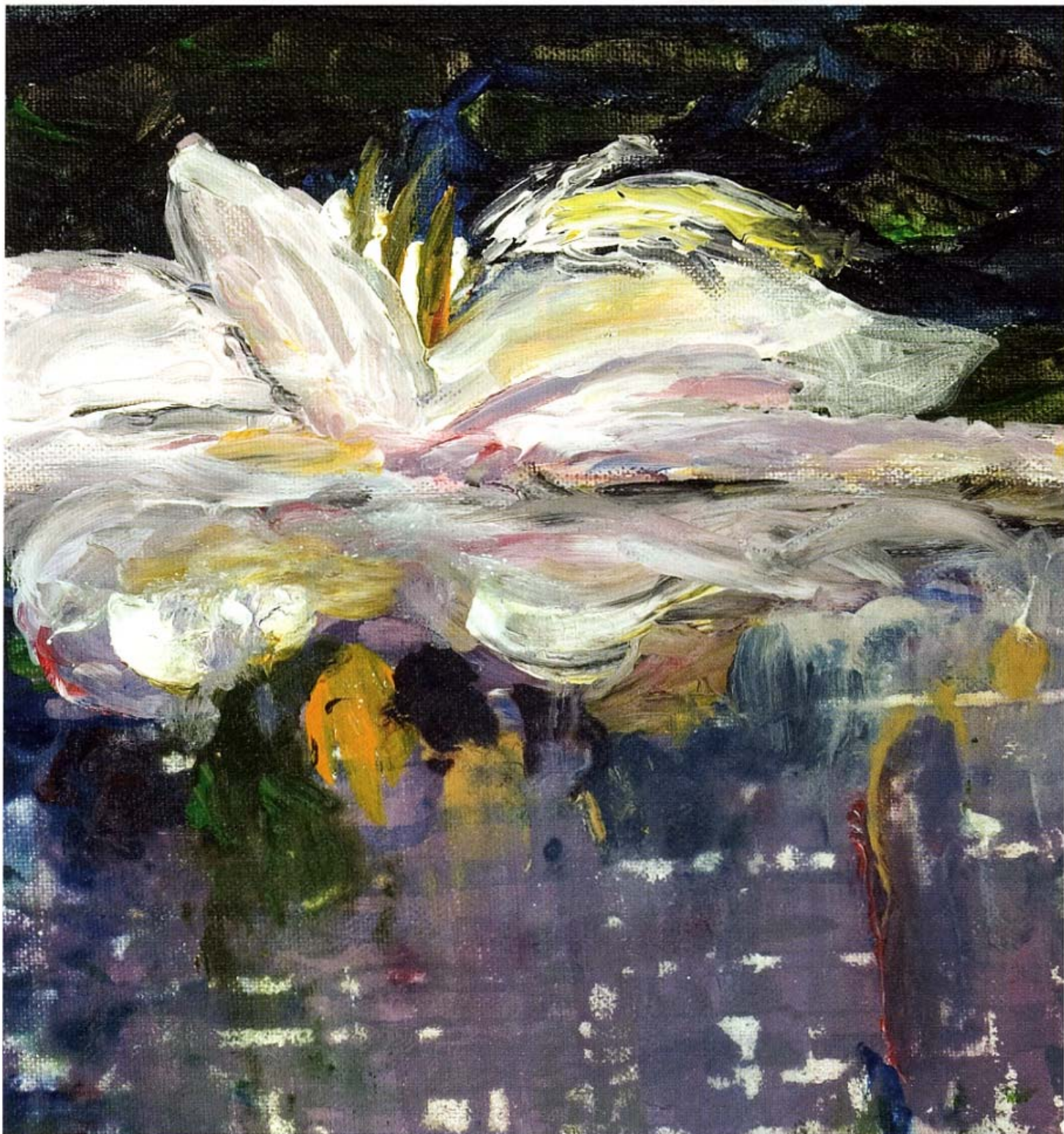


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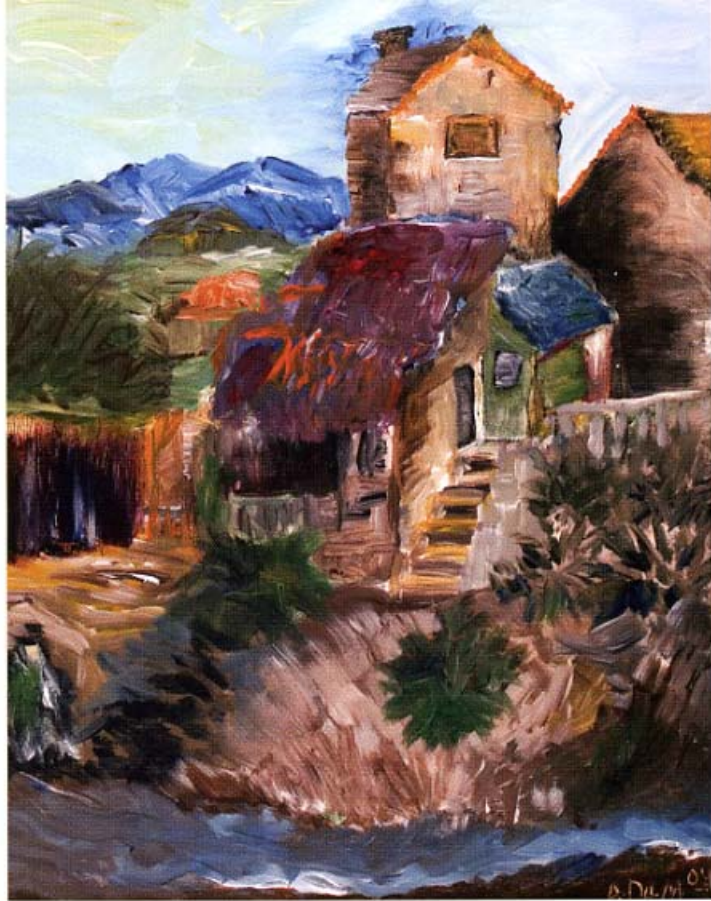
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## *painting prodigy*

Thirteen-year-old Adam Gayer wows the art community with his extraordinary talent.





article by Lynette J. Bleed  
 photography by Steve Vorderman

When art buffs look at one of Adam Gayer's impressionistic-style Tuscany landscapes, they often ask, "Have you traveled there?" Adam replies, "Well, it is hard to get away when you're in seventh grade; I'll try someday."

At age 13, Adam's talent for painting has been described as extraordinary by several art professionals and critics, and some of his original oil paintings are selling for up to \$2,500 each.

His love for art was apparent even in his toddler years when he would arrange objects according to the color spectrum. "When I was little, I was really demanding about colors and stuff," Adam says with a laugh.

At bedtime, he always wanted his dad to draw a picture instead of read a book. "Every single night, we would draw," says Adam's dad, Kelly Gayer. "He would pick a topic and ask me to draw a scene. He was a detail freak. For instance, if it was a police station scene, Adam would want to know why I hadn't included the detective hat that was hanging on the coat rack, in the background, behind the desk, next to the gun rack," he says. "Part of my sanity was handing him the paper and pencil and saying 'you draw it.'"

So Adam did. By kindergarten, he was capturing perspective and scale as accurately as many adult artists. At age eight, he enrolled in locally owned Pancner's Art School, where his talent for painting continued to blossom.

"It's a popular art school," Adam says. "They taught me the basics of drawing and shading, then painting. My art teacher taught me a lot."

Ales Pancner, a professional painter and director of Pancner's Art School, recognized Adam's unique talent within weeks of his enrollment. He sent a note home to Adam's parents that said, "Your son has extraordinary talent. If Adam lived in Chicago or New York City, he'd have investors." By investors, he meant art professionals that would have interest in supporting and promoting Adam's work.

The note spurred Kelly Gayer, a marketing professional and owner of an advertising agency, to investigate avenues for gaining Adam's art more exposure. In 2006, Adam exhibited his work at the Covington Art Fair, a local juried show. There, he enjoyed remarkable success, selling almost thirty originals and prints, gaining a lot of media attention, and paving the way for future opportunities.

Earlier this spring, he became the youngest juried artist to ever participate in the East Lansing Art Festival. While there, his work was studied by an art professor from Michigan State University who purchased an original painting, visited his booth both days of the show, and remarked that he was the best young talent that she had seen.

Many professional artists acknowledge that creating art is only part of being a successful artist; the other part is the business of selling. Kelly Gayer is this part of the father and son duo, but he says that they are being cautious about keeping a moderate marketing pace. "It's such a delicate balance, because it is important that Adam has fun painting. I never want him to feel pressure."

Kelly's marketing finesse recently produced an opportunity that many artists would envy. Earlier this year, when he first phoned Daniel Pierre McClenaghan, an art appraiser, consultant and broker in Chicago, McClenaghan wasn't interested. But once Kelly sent him an e-mail with a link to Adam's website, [www.fineartbyadam.com](http://www.fineartbyadam.com), within days McClenaghan offered him a gallery opening and show. Adam's show, "Fine Art By Adam," ran from June 15 through July 17 at the Chicago Art Matrix Gallery in the Zhou B Art Center.

“ I find a cool photo and add some fun to it. I just paint and see where it goes. I never know what a painting is going to look like when I start. ”





Adam Gayer

The inspiration for many of Adam's paintings comes from pictures or photos that he sees in books. "I find a cool photo and add some fun to it. I just paint and see where it goes. I never know what a painting is going to look like when I start."

Flowerburst Red, the first in a series of three, started as a project in art class. "The class was doing flowers. Mine didn't look good, so I asked Mr. Pancner if I could do my own thing. I just kind of made this up. I later added the vase and some other things," Adam says. "I have also done a Flowerburst Blue, and this one will be a Flowerburst whatever. I still have to figure it out; maybe green."

Adam describes Guitar Duo, the first in a series of four, as "just my own."

"I'm trying to form my own style. I try new things and see how it goes. In this one, the guitar forms into a tree, bringing life into the picture," he says.

When he is not painting, he enjoys many of the same things that other teens do like hanging out with friends, playing video games, and being a huge car buff. He admits that he enjoys his new source of income, but he says his parents are only allowing him to spend some of it, so he can save for college. "Adam has generated a pretty significant amount of income for a 13-year old, but the thing I'm most proud of is that he's staying so grounded in all of this," says Kelly Gayer.

As for the future, Adam's pretty sure he wants to do something that has to do with art and possibly attend a college known for its fine arts. "I'm not a science-and-math guy," he says with a laugh. FWL

