

# Past inspires artist's portraits

By NANCYE TUTTLE  
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Since childhood, Chelmsford artist **Amy Ubele** has been captivated by people — and so she has painted their portraits.

Over the past five months, she has delved into her past for inspiration for work that focuses on the figure.

"I searched through old family photo albums and have painted images of my childhood and of people that I love," she said.

"I found that painting subjects that are personal to me make the act of painting more exciting and engaging. When I was painting portraits of myself as a baby with my parents, there was a personal connection that I hadn't had before."

Ubele, a 2001 Chelmsford High graduate, will earn her bachelor's degree magna cum laude in painting and art education in May from Montserrat College in Beverly. She's showing her

portraits and other works at Sweetest Memories, a candy store located at 17 Alpine Lane, Chelmsford.

"I work at the store part-time and asked the owner Janet Landry if I could put a few of my paintings up. She suggested we do a whole show. I'm very grateful to her and excited to have my first solo show there," said Ubele.

The show features 20 of Ubele's works, including portraits, plus landscapes of familiar Chelmsford scenes.

Landscapes are her latest challenge.

"My goal is to address different issues in the landscapes. Some deal with shallow space, some with deep space. Some paintings have a looser paint application while others may be more photo-realistic. I'll also try to work on many paintings in one session," she said.

"So far, I've had fun with the landscape painting. And, if you had asked me three months ago if I would be painting landscapes, I would

have laughed and said 'no way.'"

Aside from the personal family portraits, Ubele's works are for sale. She also takes commissions for portraits. In the fall, she will student teach in Salem and hopes to teach art to elementary school students.

But, says Ubele, she will always paint and do her art.

"I am your basic crafty person," she said.

The show is up until early June. Call 978-244-1030.

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"Mom and Amy," by Amy Ubele