



Seven-month-old Matthew, left, (wearing green) races with Julia Cretny, 11 months (wearing pink).



Eleven-month-old Sophie Areen, left, (wearing green) races with Julia Cretny, 11 months (wearing pink).

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Writers in action.



Alyssa Brzezicki, 11 months, tears up at the starting line.



Artist Angela Collinge poses with her artwork, The Garden, at the Chrysalis art program exhibition launch at the Melange Salon and Spa on Saturday afternoon.

WALTER TICHONOWICZ, THE JOURNAL

Chrysalis gives disabled artists a creative voice

Salon listens by displaying new works each month

MARTA GOLD
Journal Staff Writer
EDMONTON

Angela Collinge beams with pride as she wanders among the assembled guests at her first art show.

The 26-year-old disabled artist is slow to speak with strangers, but quick to smile and giggle. She can barely contain her excitement at seeing her colourful paintings hanging on the walls of Melange Salon and Spa in south Edmonton this weekend. The exhibit was arranged to coincide with Alberta Arts Day.

Salon owner Angelina Elder has agreed to showcase the work of Collinge and her fellow art students from the Chrysalis program for adults with disabilities over the coming year. Each month, beginning with Collinge's paintings this month, the work of a different student artist will be displayed and offered for sale.

Their teacher, local artist Gonzalo Canales, has been running the art therapy program for about six months. When he started, his goal was to give clients another way to communicate.

"It's amazing the transformations that have gone on there," says Canales. "There are professionals who spend most of their lives trying to get this kind of emotion out on the canvases," he adds, gesturing around the room at Collinge's work. "It's very pure."

Several of her paintings are "block art" — abstracts with blocks of different colours. Another looks like a flower gar-

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"It's stress relief."

Sandy Parravano came to the art show with daughter Meranda, 25, who recently started in the art program at Chrysalis. "The really important thing with individuals with disabilities is giving them that opportunity," she says. "Years ago, our kids were thrown in institutions or put in front of the TV, and Meranda's life has not been like that." Chrysalis is a charitable organization that offers training, life skills and help finding employment to adults with disabilities. The art students' works can be seen at Melange Salon and Spa, #102-1207 91 St. SW.

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Thief irked after cashier hands over Canadian Tire money

Journal Staff
EDMONTON

A thief who robbed a north-end store Thursday was not impressed when the clerk handed him a wad of Canadian Tire money, police said Friday.

The man initially flashed a small knife at the Canadian Tire at 132nd Avenue and Fort Road, but when the clerk

handed him the faux currency he pulled out a bigger blade.

The cashier immediately handed over the real deal and the man fled.

Staff members followed the 48-year-old man into the parking lot, where police apprehended him a short while later. The cash was returned to the store and the knives were taken from the accused.