

Young Artist Draws Inspiration From President

The owners of Evolve the Gallery recently found out that an artist's inspiring artwork could be deceiving on different levels. At least that was the case when Joseph Trinos' pencil drawing of U.S. President Barack Obama showed up in

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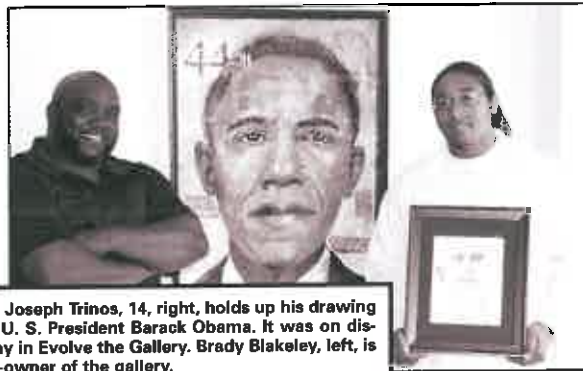
It took Joseph Trinos three hours to create the drawing of President Obama.

their email account.

Proprietors Brady and A. Michelle Blakeley, who were holding the art exhibit "44" in honor of President Obama, thought Trinos was a much older and seasoned artist living here on the West Coast. Ironically, the couple learned through a local African American male youth group the Trinos was only 14 years old.

Attitude, Commitment, and Excellence (ACE), a mentoring program ran by caring adults, took Trinos and other members of the program to view the art exhibit that featured various artists from across the country. Trinos asked the Blakleys a lot of questions and revealed that he too was an artist.

Later that day, inspired by what he saw in the art gallery, Trinos produced the inspiring Barack, "My President," piece within three hours. The drawing is well-illustrated and clearly shows no detection of a



Joseph Trinos, 14, right, holds up his drawing of U. S. President Barack Obama. It was on display in Evolve the Gallery. Brady Blakeley, left, is co-owner of the gallery.

young creator.

"When we sent the drawing to Michelle and Brady they said, 'Sorry, submissions is closed to artists for this art exhibit,'" said ACE co-founder and CEO Vince D. Pearson.

"We (Pearson and ACE co-founder Cloyce Dickerson) texted them back and said, 'No, this is from the young man who visited the art gallery yesterday,'" he added.

Amazed by the artwork, the Blakleys took the initiative to mat and frame Trinos' creation. The Obama drawing was shown in the Oak Park gallery along with the other artwork until the exhibit ended in April.

"I wanted to draw Obama because I thought he was a huge inspiration to African American people," Trinos told The OBSERVER.

"I also drew it up so that the

drawing could be an inspiration to other young artists. It's a way of speaking up," he added.

Trinos is finishing up his freshman year at Health Professional High School. He lives with his family in the Marina Vista Public Housing community and he is an ardent sports fan.

"Joseph is very quiet and he comes from a stable home," Pearson said.

"His mother is very focused and she's been trying to expose him, not to just ours, but a lot of (mentoring) programs," Pearson added.

Trinos' goal is to attend an art school or college in the future. But right now he is concentrating on his academic studies, meeting with ACE once a week, and honing his art skills as much as possible.

"I have plans on drawing Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and Martin Luther King," Trinos said.