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EAST LANSING ART FEST

ARTISTIC OUTLETS

MEET 3 WHO WILL
DISPLAY WORKS
THIS WEEKEND

MORE INSIDE

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PAGE 7

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RENEE ROBBINS

Renee Robbins sees life in patterns. And her art is an exploration of that vision.

The 28-year-old design and drawing instructor at Mott Community College in Flint enjoys blending various patterns together in her acrylic and mixed media work.

She may take the exterior structure of a plant and blend it with a molecular-type pattern to form a vibrant image that may seem abstract to the casual viewer, but is anything but.

"I think of them sort of as landscapes and all the imagery comes from somewhere. They're hybrids in a way. It could be part of a cell, plant or rock formation all put together," she said. "I pick from certain systems that are biological, anatomical, cultural, architectural and celestial. So it goes from the micro to the macro so that there's these different landscapes of our existence from our cells to the great landscape of the great plains or a rainforest or space."

At the East Lansing Arts Festival, the Lansing resident plans to bring about 60 to 70 of her paintings – encompassing about two years of work.

Robbins earned her master's degree in painting from Michigan State University after graduating from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's in painting.

She's shown her work around the Midwest and received a grant from MSU's College of Arts and Letters to study in Tokyo, Japan.

She likes to use acrylic in her work because it dries quickly but also works with cloth, lace and string in her work. Robbins said she finds inspiration in almost everything.

"I don't paint every single thing I see, but I'm inspired by rain, bubbles in the soda and everything," she said.

Continued on Page 20

SNAPSHOT

- **Music she listens to while painting:** Sufjan Stevens
- **Favorite artists from before the 20th century:** Katsushika Hokusai and Hieronymus Bosch
- **When you're not painting, you:** Camp and enjoy the outdoors

FESTIVAL AREA

See the work of more than 230 artists on Saturday and Sunday at the 44th East Lansing Art Festival. There will also be live performances, activities and a food court. Visit www.elartfest.com for details.

