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Art for children's sake at St. George Church

Story

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Jane Booras

Jane Booras shows one of her favorite paintings from her exhibit at St. George Greek Orthodox Church this weekend.

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Posted: Thursday, September 24, 2015 3:00 am

By Bridget Turcotte / The Daily Item | 0 comments

LYNN — Two and a half years ago, Jane Booras took a six-week trip to Africa and came face-to-face with the poverty and hardships that children in other parts of the world experience.

"After traveling the continent of Africa, I became very aware of the plight of so many children on this earth," Booras said. "I was left with a profound need to help in some way."

Booras came up with the idea to use her artistic ability to depict the lives of children from all over the world and raise awareness. For more than two years she has been working on creating the collection of 102 paintings that she calls "Children of the World — 100 Faces of Humanity."

"It was supposed to be 100 paintings, but I had two more that I just had to include," Booras said.

On Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Church on South Common Street, she will hold a fundraising art show featuring all 102 of the paintings.

The paintings will be up for sale, with proceeds to benefit children-related charities. There will

also be matted prints and boxes of greeting cards available to purchase, she said.

"We will have things available at all different prices," Booras said.

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September 2015

Fifty percent of the proceeds will benefit the St. George Philoptochos Charities, which include The Caring and Sharing program, which is run out of St. George Church and provides food and clothing to children in need in the Lynn area.

It will also benefit a Boston Children s Hospital Cardiac Care unit program that brings children with cardiac disease from Greece to Boston Children s.

Booras has already begun arranging rows of paintings at the church. There will be red carpets laid down to line each aisle, a pianist will be present at the event, and international appetizers and wine will be served.

"It will be a nice way to spend a fall afternoon," Booras said. "I can t see people coming in and not being moved by these faces."

Booras spent two years hand-painting the collection of art, which portrays children in about 0 different countries throughout the world, she said. Each painting will be displayed with a title and the country that it represents.

"I began painting about 15 years ago," she said. "I started with landscapes and then I started painting my nine grandkids. Then I realized I needed to do something else, I needed to come up with a way to do something for good."

She began with a goal of completing 12 paintings, and before she knew it, she was working to complete 100.

"I felt like God s hand was pushing my paintbrush," Booras said.

"Children are the future of the world," she said. "Some of these children are waking up hungry and going to bed hungry and there are people in the countries that are going to bed wealthy, knowing people in their own country are starving. It breaks my heart."

Her favorite painting is called "We re Happy to See You," which is of three children in vietnam who are happy and smiling. They have nothing materialistic other than the pieces of clothing on their body and aren t wearing any shoes, yet you can see the happiness in their faces.

"For me, this is what it s all about," she said. "These pictures tell stories."

Another of her favorites is a painting called "This is My House," which is based in Borneo, Indonesia. A small child is standing naked in front of his house, which appears to have been built mainly with sticks and twigs.

What makes the paintings so moving, she said, is the expression in each of the children s faces.

"Many of the paintings are adapted from actual photographs," Booras said.

"Children s portraits are my passion," she said. "Capturing the emotion in a child s face and telling their story through my paintings is my purpose."

Booras is hoping the event will also help her gain contacts who want to continue using her art to raise money for children-related charities.

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