Watercolor painted with a bamboo brush.

Tempera paint and pens.

Young ARTIST

Personal Mandala; Prismacolor® pencil.

Self-mask; plaster.

I love to draw, paint, sculpt and design. When I begin a piece of art I usually can't stop. I'm constantly thinking of things that I could add or improve. Sometimes I get so involved I forget about other things like homework or chores.

When I was younger I painted pictures that were simple and plain, but I was always told they were colorful and expressive. Now that I'm older I have begun to perfect my art and develop somewhat of a style. Some days my art turns out not how I envisioned. It seems the art side of my brain is turned off for that day.

I get discouraged sometimes when one piece of art takes a few months to finish. The thing that keeps me going, however, is the encouragement from my friends and teachers about the quality of my work.

One reason I love art so much is I love working with color. I love to mix colors—finding new shades of blue or green that make the sea I'm drawing even more beautiful and vibrant.

I think everyone is an artist. Some people are classified as artists and some aren't because people generally like to find who's the best at something, instead of appreciating all art work in different ways. I think that any mark put on a piece of paper is art and the person who drew it is an artist.

Ellen Setchko Palmerlee

Ellen Setchko Palmerlee, grade 8
Sonoma Country Day School
Santa Rosa, California
Jan LeHecka, Art Teacher

Scale-of-light work; Prismacolor® pencil.