

# Gallery to feature art of Daniel Is. teen

BY JACK MCCRAY  
*The Post and Courier*

John Henry Tecklenburg is emerging as quite a serious artist. And when he's not busy playing basketball — his other love — he strokes his canvas with oils like he strokes jump shots.

Tecklenburg is a 14-year-old rising sophomore at Bishop England High School, and he's set to open his first art exhibition, scheduled for Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Fish or Cut Bait Gallery, 142 Jungle Road on Edisto Beach. Twelve to 15 paintings will be displayed.

The show comes on the heels of having spent a week and a half at the prestigious Five-Star Basketball Camp in Pittsburgh. Former graduates include Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing.

John Henry played basketball last year and plans to try out again this year, joining his 16-year-old brother, Joseph, who plays point guard.

His attention quickly turned to painting after camp, though.

The Daniel Island teenager is pleased with his work but there are still some butterflies. "The exhibition makes me anxious. I don't know if I'm going to sell anything," he said last week after a session with his art teacher, Dianne Tennyson.

He should be fine on Saturday. "Every painting he sells goes for \$250 or \$300," said Tennyson, who believes John Henry has all the potential in the world.

John Henry has already been formally engaged by a client. He said, "My first commissioned one was by Father Francis Kline, abbot at Mepkin Abbey. It's called 'The Road to Mepkin,' an oil on can-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENNY ARCHER/STAFF

**John Henry Tecklenburg gets help on one of his paintings from Dianne Tennyson inside her studio. Tennyson also teaches art therapy classes to all ages out of her home studio in Mount Pleasant.**

vas." He said he saves most of the money he makes.

He learned to draw before he started painting. "I used to get those little books that teach you how to draw from the art store when I was a little kid. I liked it," he said.

John Henry began painting at the age of 8 or 9. He said his teachers at Charleston Catholic School and his parents thought he ought to have more lessons, so he was sent

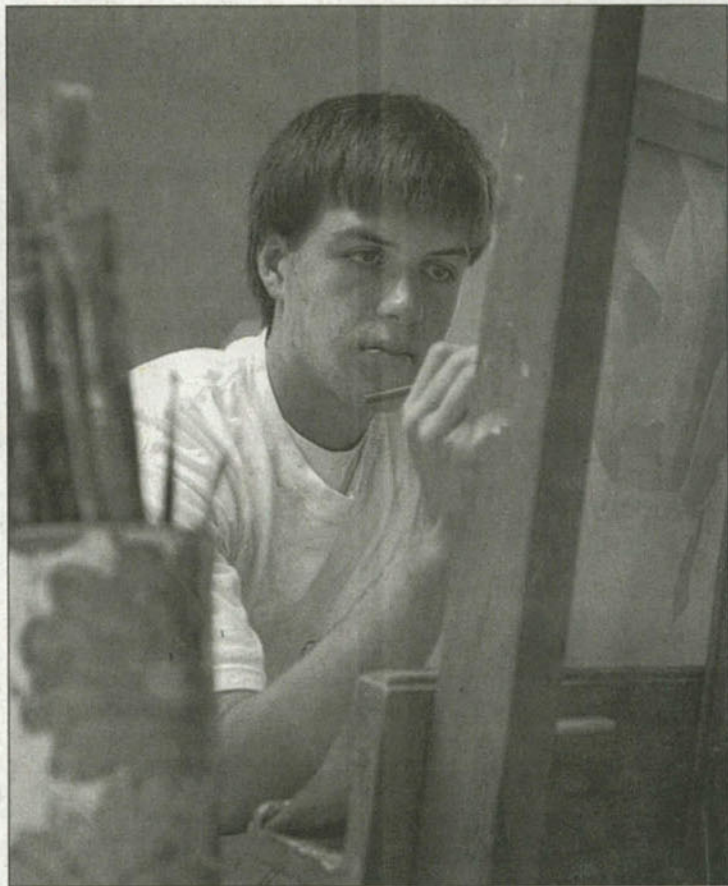
to Tennyson, who teaches out of her Mount Pleasant studio.

He's been hanging out at Fish or Cut Bait

since he was 3 or 4, said Railsford Foster, the owner. Like everyone else, she's quite taken by his development in such a short time.

"I love the ways he sees things and translates things," she said. "It's hard for me to put him in a style. He has a style of his own."

John Henry's father, John, is a musician. He has played for openings and other events at the gallery and would take John Henry along. In fact, he will be playing piano from 3-5 p.m. Saturday at



**John Henry Tecklenburg works on one of his paintings. The 14-year-old rising sophomore at Bishop England not only has an exhibit coming out at Fish or Cut Bait Gallery but also is a standout basketball player.**

his son's show.

John Henry's father thinks he gets his artistic talent from his great-grandmother, Pauline Tecklenburg. "We have some of her art hanging," said Sandy Tecklenburg, John Henry's mother.

She's close to him and is not surprised at his budding success. She said, "I told him many times this (art) is one area of his life where he's in total control. Nobody tells him what to do. He never shares with me what he's working on. He has a lot of drive and determination. It's about anything he wants to teach himself."