

Art profit for student aid

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STAFF WRITER

A York University student is giving his fellow classmates a monetary gift from the sale of his artwork.

Amir Pichhadze, a second year visual arts student, is donating 40 per cent of the profits made from his current art exhibit to an as-of-yet unde-

termined existing York scholarship fund.

The works, original pastel and oil paintings and limited edition reproductions and posters, range in price from \$55 to \$7,500. Twelve works were sold at the opening last Sunday.

Pichhadze says his well-established artist father, who organizes numerous fundraising events in

Toronto and Israel, inspires him to give.

The 21-year-old began seriously focusing on art four years ago. He says after enrolling at York, he began taking his talent more professionally.

"It took me a while to mature and, only at that time, could I sit down and say that's what I want to

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Artist for students

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develop further," says Pichhadze. "Up until then, art was just a terrific hobby."

Pichhadze's work has been displayed in Toronto, New York and Israel.

"Amir always loved the art," says his father Jacob. "I remember from his childhood, when I started to paint he was always behind me."

Over 150 family, friends and students were in attendance at the Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, Stong College, opening where Pichhadze donated one of his works on behalf of the university to Mayor Mel Lastman and his office for being elected the first mayor of the new city.

Representing Lastman's office was Deputy Mayor Case Ootes who accepted the oil painting of a floral composition.



PHOTO BY HORACE DOCKERY

21-year-old Amir Pichhadze stands next to his pastel work, Old City.

Ootes, a York graduate, says Pichhadze is helping to define the soul of the new city through culture. "Obviously from what I've seen, he's got a promising future," he says.

The painting will hang in Metro Hall until the city officially move to City Hall, where the artwork will follow, in the fall.

Law school is Pichhadze's next goal. He says even though a lot of people say the two disciplines do not

combine, the Isreal-born artist believes he will be able to excel and looks forward to new the challenges. "I feel that (law) is going to help me, even in my art, to be able to express myself." His older brother recently finished a law degree at the University of Buckingham in England.

"Art, I believe, is something that is always going to stay with me," Pichhadze says.