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Student's artwork bought by Clinic

By Bryan Story
Staff Writer

Thirty-one years after he underwent heart surgery in the Cleveland Clinic, Bill Bartlett returned for a very different reason.

Now 82 years old, Bartlett came to the hospital's ever-changing and growing halls not for a follow-up, checkup or any medical reason, but simply to see his granddaughter's artwork hanging on a wall.

The title of the artwork: "Grandpa."

Bartlett's granddaughter, Kelsey Lapping, who graduated recently from Westlake

High School, made the graphite and pastel piece as part of the Clinic's "eXpressions: An Intersection of Art and Science" program.

The program gives top high school students who are interested in medicine an intense nine-week internship at the Cleveland Clinic. When the program is over, the interns return to school and give a presentation on their summer work to art classes. The students then create artwork inspired by the intern's presentation and submit their art to be judged by a team of scientists and artists alike.

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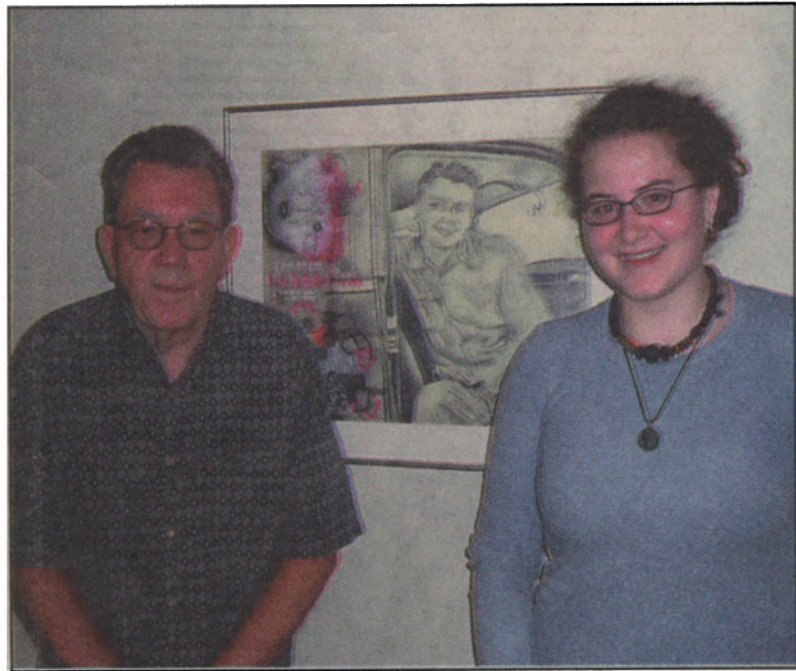


PHOTO BY BRYAN STORY

Kelsey Lapping and her grandfather, Bill Bartlett, stand in front of Kelsey's artwork, "Grandpa," at the Cleveland Clinic. Bill underwent heart surgery at the Clinic more than 30 years ago, and inspired his granddaughter's work.

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The subject of Alex Medoro's presentation hit close to home for Lapping.

"What struck me was her description of open-heart surgery," Lapping said. "It made me think of what my grandpa went through."

Of course, when Bartlett had his surgery in 1976, he was something of a pioneer

patient. Looking at the portrait that his granddaughter drew of him, Bartlett recalled working with the legendary Dr. Mason Sones in the Cleveland Clinic all those years ago.

"At that time heart surgery meant three days on a bed in the basement. We called it the torture chamber," he said.

In 2006, the Clinic performed more than 3,500 open heart surgery procedures, making what was revolution-

ary 30 years ago somewhat commonplace.

Lapping's art was displayed along with 45 other works of art selected from the eXpressions program throughout February at the InterContinental Hotel on the Clinic's campus.

When Joanne Cohen, executive director and curator of

the Cleveland Clinic Art Program saw Lapping's work she offered to buy the piece for the Clinic.

"It was a little hard to give up the artwork, but it was also cool to know that it would be shown here in the Clinic where my grandpa had his surgery," Lapping said.