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Sherborn library features painter/CEO's first show

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SHERBORN - In a top floor artist's studio in rural Natick, Dick Eaton unravels his palette made of freezer paper — exposing wide dots of color — and lays it out next to his easel. It is a warm, sunny Wednesday afternoon, and light streams into the whitewashed room through countless windows, illuminating paintings that lean against walls all over the studio.

Eaton, a Sherborn resident and father of three who has been painting for enjoyment for the past seven years, has his first exhibition of 19 paintings currently showing at the Sherborn Public library. The proceeds from the 15 paintings that are for sale, which range in price from \$300-\$1,400, will be split between two scholarships set up in his parents' names, and will benefit programs for disadvantaged youths in South Boston and New Jersey.

Eaton's exhibited paintings include land and seascapes of Maine, Tuscany and Dover as well as intense, brightly colored paintings inspired by the Fauves.

"It is very exciting," Eaton said of selling his work, one of which sold for \$1,000. "It's five times more exciting to know the money is doing something."

For the past four years, Eaton has taken two-thirds of every Wednesday off work to go to painting classes in South Boston and to go to his studio and paint. He applies this work-leisure balance to his business, Leapfrog Innovations, an interactive learning and team-building company based in Medford. Eaton encourages each of his resident staff to take part in five days of paid community service a year.

"It's a self-supporting cycle of good," Eaton said of the program. "Being a creative person is why the business is successful. We are trying to tap into the greatness that exists inside people."

The exhibition runs until June 29, and the proceeds from the sale of the paintings will benefit the Barbara Feder Eaton Fund for the Advancement of Young Women at the Isles YouthBuild Institute, and the Barbara and Henry Eaton Fund for Youth Arts Mentorship at Medicine Wheel Productions.

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