

# With drawings of bugs and flowers, Okemos twins blossom as artists



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## Max Boyang work qualifies for Detroit show



(Photo: Julia Nagy, Lansing State Journal)

OKEMOS – One brother likes drawing flowers. The other likes to draw insects and animals.

That may be the simplest way — besides a slightly different haircut — to tell identical twins Max and Louis Boyang apart.

The 10-year-old fifth-graders at Kinawa School in Okemos are each gifted artists. In fact, their teacher, Okemos artist and studio owner Vivian Dwyer, said she's never seen so much talent so young.

"I just have the best time with them, because they learn everything I tell them in seconds," Dwyer said. "No one can do what they do out of their heads."

Both boys have been receiving wider recognition. Compositions from both will be featured in an art show and sale that opens Sunday at Arty Party Studio in Okemos.

Louis's piece "Flower Burst" was displayed on a Lansing billboard during March, while one of Max's insect compositions will be in a juried show called "Blooms, Bugs, Beasts" from Wednesday through June 25 at the Scarab Club of Detroit.

Scarab Club gallery director Treena Flannery Ericson said competition for entry into the show was "very tough" and that Max's work "most certainly fits the bill as far as the theme of the exhibition. He shows a remarkable talent."



Sunflowers are a favorite subject for artist Louis Boyang, 10, of Okemos. (Photo: Courtesy photo)

Louis has only been painting for one year with Dwyer, but said he doesn't remember a time when he wasn't drawing something

"I liked flowers and I was good at them. I like drawing what I'm good at," he said.

Louis says he doesn't have a favorite flower; many inspire him. He prefers to work in front of real plants.

"I don't like to copy from pictures. I just want to see the real thing. It's easier to do it that way, and I can move it how I want to move it and draw it how I want to draw it," he said.

Their mom, Heidi, said Louis is particularly good at sunflowers, and Louis agreed. When she recently brought a bouquet home from the store that featured sunflowers and some orange lilies, Louis asked her for more flowers, the better to flesh out his vision.

Max prefers insects, landscapes and abstracts.

"Insects have always made me think about them and see how interesting they are," he said. "They have all these intricate lines on them and hairs. They're also like dinosaurs and dragons and monsters, and when I was really little I liked drawing dragons. With insects, they're like dragons, but in real life."

When they're not working on their art, Louis and Max are straight-A students who like art class, yes, but also enjoy math and science and sing in the choir.

The attention, one brother said, is both welcome and a little intimidating.

"I could never have imagined this," Louis said. "I feel really excited (about the show), and sometimes scared not many people will come."

If you go



The Boyang Twins Art Show and Sale will have an opening reception from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at Arty Party, 4661 Okemos Road. The show continues through May 19. Proceeds will be donated to Joey's Wings Foundation, which works to find a cure for kidney cancers in children and young adults. Call 381-3426 or click on [boyangtwins.com](http://boyangtwins.com).

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**Max Boyang, 10, of Okemos enjoys drawing insects like these bees.** (Photo: Courtesy photo)

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