

Friday JANUARY 2 2009

south  
delta *leader*

**BUDGET  
BREAKER**

Heavy snowfall  
puts Delta in  
the red

**SEASON GOAL**

DSS girls  
basketball  
team focuses  
on winning the  
'big' game

**RENAISSANCE  
MAN**

From the human form to machines,  
Tsawwassen artist applies his vision to it all



**INSPIRATIONAL**—Garrett Campbell-Wilson's early love for comic books and drawing has led to a passion for painting. The piece behind him is titled *Paradise Woman*. Visit [www.gcamwilstudio.com](http://www.gcamwilstudio.com) for more paintings.

*Tyler Garnham photo*

KRISTINE THIESSEN  
REPORTER

**W**hen Garrett Campbell-Wilson paints, he has all the colours he could possibly want in front of him. He has a theme in mind—it might be a landscape, an emotion, a movement like dance—but he does not decide in advance exactly what he'll create, or what colours he'll use.

It's a liquid process, he says. What results are pieces like *Embrace the Dance*, two figures in feverish movement, complemented by bold strokes in warm browns, yellows, oranges and hints of green.

The four by three foot canvas hangs above the living room couch in the Tsawwassen apartment he lives in with his mom, Vena.

Throughout the suite are the 23-year-old's paintings, and they complement the warmth of the home where Vena makes mango tea with a hint of ginger and is proud to talk of her son's accomplishments. And those are many, particularly for someone so young.

Garrett has been drawing since he could grasp a crayon. "Crayola and Play-Doh, that was the beginning. And for a long time it was mainly drawing and drafting that I was

## Renaissance man

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into," he says. "Drawing with pencil, charcoal, anything that was messy. And usually it was on a big scale because I like to get very physical with my artwork."

Vena laughs when she recalls a knee-high tall Garrett painting the carpet. And he was a voracious reader and collector of comic books. Batman, Spiderman, X-Men—at eight years old, he wanted to be a comic book artist, and this goal fostered a fascination with the human figure.

"The top of the line guys know anatomy like the back of their hand, so since I was eight I was practicing in that

way," he explains.

Garrett started with the outside of the body, moved to the inside, broke down the skeleton and dove into the muscles.

"I have that down pat now, and now I'm moving into the internal organs and the nervous system and the brain. My mission is to know the human body inside out."

Human anatomy applies to other aspects of the artist's life. He's achieved a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and currently practices three types of Kung Fu.

Films also influenced his drawing styles. He watched Japanese animation (manga) like *Ninja Scroll*, *Akira* and *Ghost in the Shell*. Films and comics have helped him develop the ability to see where the figures in his paintings are coming from, and where they are going.

His early fixation with comics and animation has revealed a wider world to the artist. When Garrett was a teen he was one of a handful of high school students within the Lower Mainland accepted into the Emily Carr University of Art's Gifted Teen Scholarship Program.

"It was a huge motivator, is what it was," he recalls.

Through the program his work was displayed with his peers at the prestigious Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, and it

