

Eye-catching artwork



Kaysie Wood.

Ruimsig — When entering Maragon Private School's reception area, one cannot but notice the stylish decor, plush furniture, grand piano and bold paintings adorning the walls.

This past week, however, pupils, parents and visitors to the school immediately had their attention drawn to four easels arranged around the grand piano.

One's eye was implicitly drawn to the strikingly simplistic images on the canvasses — close-up eyes, lips, and facial features brought to life by layers of oil paint, painstakingly applied with precision brush strokes.

These captivating paintings were created by four Maragon High School art pupils, under the expert guidance of teacher Deon van Dorp.

The young artists — modest and shy at first — explain that the artworks were the result of an exercise in painting, each one taking about three weeks to complete.

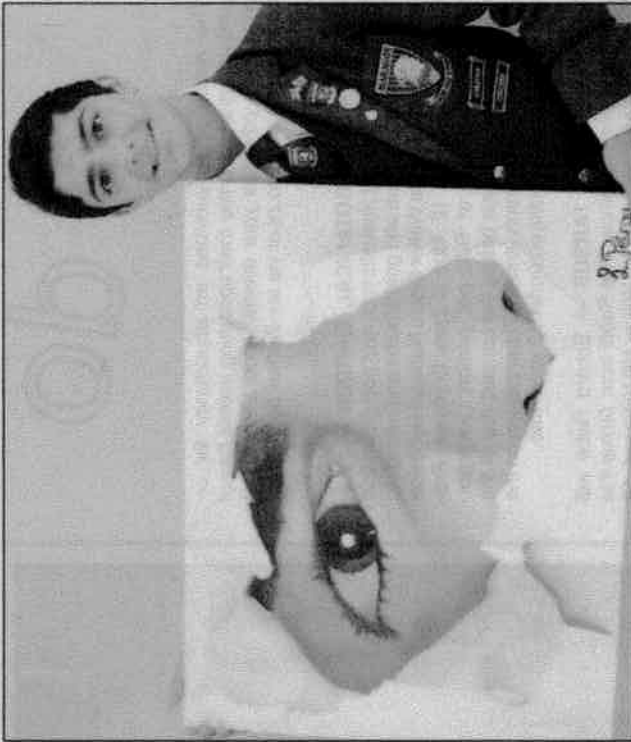
Says Deon, "The general idea was to teach the pupils to capture a simple, close-up facial fea-

ture. "Proportion, perspective, depth and the use of contrasting highlights and shadows all contribute to bringing these to life."

Leon Petrou, Alexia Stathakis, Adam van Zyl and Kaysie Wood went through a process of three brainstorming sessions, followed by three compositional sketches and working on a grid, before putting their paint brushes to the canvasses.

With oil paint being a more advanced medium with which to work, and taking longer to dry than acrylic paint, it involves a layering process to achieve the final result.

And these pupils indeed achieved results to be proud of.



Leon Petrou.



Alexia Stathakis.



Adam van Zyl.