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# Big impact

Cotuit exhibit showcase provides arts

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As you walk up to the entrance of Cotuit Center for the Arts, you will see lined up against the window five giant silhouettes that would strike fear in any gardener's heart. Simply titled "Weeds," the pale pink, teal, fuchsia, lavender and orange weeds were made out of painted birch plywood by artist Maxine Schaffer, and they offer an appropriate welcome to "SO BIG!" the fifth annual collaboration between the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod and the Cotuit center.

The exhibit is part of an educational initiative by the Arts Foundation that interim executive director Rob Sennott thinks is increasingly important. He says the annual exhibit serves two important functions.

"One is that we showcase both established and emerging artists here on Cape Cod, and, secondly, we bring in upwards of 2,000 Cape Cod students and their teachers," he says. "That's extraordinarily important in my view because of the importance of arts and the diminishment of them in academic school budgets."

This year the artists themselves are a bigger part of the process. A panel of six artists chose the 47 pieces to be exhibited from 110 digital submissions. Michelle Law, an artist and art teacher at the Cotuit center, was on the panel, and she says it chose based on what best fit the theme, which was meant to be a study in size and proportion, but not all the pieces are actually huge in size themselves. For example, her piece, "Sparrow's View," is only 11-by-13 inches, but it fits into the exhibit thematically.

"It's a monoprint of a little-bird that was in my backyard for about a week a couple of years ago, and every time I would go into the backyard, he would just start yapping at me," she says. "He had no idea how small he was, and I just kind of felt like you're as big as you believe yourself to be."

Another small piece, "When Did I Get So Big?" is a collaboration between glass artists Isabel Green and Yukimi Matsumoto that takes a humorous look at size when Green's octopus can't fit into Matsumoto's vase to make a nest.

At 77 inches tall and 110 inches wide, Nancy



Works on display at the "SO BIG" show at Cotuit Center for the Arts include, clockwise from top, "Secretariat" by Nancy Ellen Crain, "In the Bohol Gardens" by Martha Lore and "Mule Snow