



Aspiring artist Michael McConnell will unveil his powerful oil painting 'Veronica' tomorrow at Holy Rosary Church's Parish Hall.

## Artist exhibits 'powerful' painting

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

A local artist hopes to launch a new career with the release of a powerful painting that critics are calling overwhelming.

Lifelong Miltonian Michael McConnell was inspired to paint 'Veronica' - a graphic display of the sixth Station of the Cross - after watching the movie Jesus of Nazareth.

Mr. McConnell says criticism that the piece is "too powerful" confirms that he accomplished what he set out to.

The 27-year-old says he wanted people to feel the same way he did when he saw the scene from Jesus of Nazareth on television.

"They feel the suffering is too much and it turns them off. They don't want that feeling and it makes them too uncomfortable. I almost take that as a compliment."

'Veronica' is Mr. McConnell's first piece of work on the market since he decided to try to turn his hobby into a career. The painting is only the seventh oil painting he ever attempted. He has been painting since childhood, however.

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