

Fine arts candidates' work on display in EMU

By Julie Decker
Emerald Contributor

Currently on display in the EMU Gallery are works by University Bachelor of Fine Arts students.

The annual BFA show brings the talent within the University department to the public's attention.

Review

Various artists join together to offer an exhibit of mixed media and mixed subject matter that challenge the perceptions and tease the senses.

Ibraheem Wahab displays "Planes and Planes" from "The Book Of," a book about his past.

Wahab describes his past as one that "is gone so far away now that it almost seems like a different lifetime in someone

else's life span."

Wahab lived in Afganistan and tells of "a place so devastated and destroyed by war that for the logical side of me none of these sweet memories make sense."

The stories and images of "Planes and Planes" speak to the viewer with fears and hopes. They depict nightmares and memories, but maintain a dominant theme of survival.

"I wrote this book so that I won't lose touch with that time of my life and the life of my country before the war started tearing us apart," Wahab said. "I want to cry, but that would mean I have given up hope. I have not."

Lithographs and etchings by Rick Simpson also address the problems of society, but Simpson focuses on the social ills he sees in the United States after

living abroad for a number of years.

"I now live in a culture which values big business and commerce over a clean environment, the rights of violent criminals over those of their victims, and which has taken an apathetic stance on education which has produced an entire generation of functional illiterates who no longer command either economic or cultural respect throughout the world," Simpson said.

Simpson's images portray his concern with the current state of society. Simpson maintains that his images are not meant to be pleasing, but rather are intended to be thought-provoking.

Figures are represented in the process of decay and metamorphosis with ambiguous forms suggesting human life in

its distortion.

Titles such as "Before the Fall," "Black Angel," "Wasteland" and "Blind Faith" suggest Simpson's distaste and impatience with the modern world and a selfish society.

Simpson said he wants to "turn over the rocks of social

pling computer application, and later began to scan photographic images to imitate the appearance of sound images.

These images are then painted with watercolors, creating works that echo sound, yet they are personified into portraits of figures that seem to come alive

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— Karen Baxter

convention and show the underbelly, the root cause of social interaction."

Karen Baxter chose to explore her world through a 4 x 5 view camera in an effort to examine her "personal mythology and the nature of identity."

Baxter's "Anima's Vision Series" includes several silver gelatin selenium toned prints.

Baxter said her constructions "point to the contradictory semblance of permanence and the transitory in both content and process."

Baxter uses porcelain portrait masks as primary subjects in her still lives, some of which are self-portraits.

In the photographs the mask is a silent face, passive, allowing itself to be manipulated by the photographer and the imposed imagery. Layered subjects give a density to the photographs as detail emerges from shadows and drapery to appear in quiet simplicity.

"I wish to evoke the ancient, ritualistic use of mask as mediator of universal spirit, the ideal of persona as mediator of self and society, and the perspective of soul as mediator of body, matter, actuality and mind, spirit, and idea," said Baxter.

Helen M. Klein presents her "Sound to Image" collection of works as examples of art inspired by technology.

Klein was an exploration geologist in the oil and gas industry in the 1970's and early 1980's in Texas where she analyzed hundreds of electrical logs representing rocks and their physical properties.

"Black curved lines on a white background represented rocks that I would never see," said Baxter.

Baxter began to play with a Mac Recorder, a sound sam-

within the entangled lines of the sound-inspired images.

Shelley Hubert also uses a computer as an inspiration for her art.

Hubert uses a MacIntosh computer to create compositions using form, pattern and value.

"The computer is especially useful for layering forms and applying shades with patterns. I explore many options in design before deciding how to edit the different combinations of design elements into the final arrangement," Hubert said.

Colleen Hemphil creates designs using a black and white photo-copy machine.

Hemphil uses repetition of identical or similar images to create large-format compositions that invite the viewer to explore the work as a whole or in individual pieces.

Suzanne L. Hughes presents her work with silkscreening in the form of subtle, intriguing portraits and compositions of figural forms.

Works such as "Pixelated," "Stone Watchers" and "Fixated" seem to represent minds at work and a quiet intensity of both the artist and the subject matter.

Catherine Delage offers works using a variety of media.

"Simply Apples" and "Simply Apples -2" are created using oils and ink wash to form the still images.

Delage also displays works with charcoal and cut paper.

Each artist participating in this exhibit offers the viewer a unique approach to interpreting the world around them.

The works are intriguing in their quality and in their subject matter.

The BFA show will be on display in the EMU Gallery for the remainder of the term.

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