Art students enroll in 'Real Life 101'

Their art galleries will open tonight

By Layne Lakefish
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They say that out-of-class experiences top all. So, how does opening two art galleries sound?

It sounded great to two University students, who went ahead with the project. Now they're businessmen — the proprietors of two downtown contemporary art galleries.

On campus they're known as seniors William White and Shan Anderson. White is classified as an arts major and Anderson is a bachelor of fine arts student.

But in town, call them owners and curators.

Tonight is the big night, the debut. Tonight Metro Arts and the Wm. White Gallery will celebrate their grand openings from 6 to 9 p.m. at 44 W. Broadway.

The galleries, said the owners, are very contemporary and will fill a niche currently missing in Eugene.

"We're doing stuff a lot different," White said. "These are different from most galleries because there are more originals, paintings and one-of-a-kinds.

"We have a range of art work as well as style and affordability," he said.

"Most of our works are originals, and they're more fun and livelier," Anderson said. "I think there's a lot more aware-

Photo by Sean Poston

University students Shan Anderson and William White are owners and curators of two new galleries.

ness of this stuff in Eugene now."

The businessmen involved in these endeavors can't wait for the grand opening, but the students behind the businessmen have another story to tell.

"This is accelerated grad school," White said. Anderson called the business venture "Real Life 101."

"It ended up being less expensive than I thought through the process of doing it ourselves," White said. "When we started with the gallery spaces, the colors were orange and avocado."

Needless to say, White and Anderson strived to make the galleries' atmospheres more pleasing.

"It was a lot of hard work," Anderson said. "But the nice thing is realizing that I might be able to create something here in Eugene for myself."

On the other hand, Anderson has gotten something different out of the project. "For me, it was being able to set out on a venture that was risky.

"It's also important to me to be able to do non-profit shows," he said, referring to non-profit shows the two galleries are planning to exhibit after the first of the year.

But for now, White and Anderson are focusing all their energy on tonight and the galleries' opening exhibits.

Metro Arts' inaugural exhibition will feature the works of Suzanne Klotz, Mark Bulwinkle and Bill Berchou.

Next door, the Wm. White Gallery will be displaying the contemporary lighting fixtures of University bachelor of fine arts student John Thompson.

After opening night, the two galleries will be open daily from 11-4 p.m.