

# Students' artworks designed to reflect reality

By Ming Rodrigues  
Emerald Entertainment Reporter

"L'Art D'Impressions," an exhibit featuring prints, artists' books and pen-and-pencil drawings by four University students, is on display through Friday at the Laverne Krause Gallery on campus.

"This exhibit is more than just visual — it's thinking art," said Rick Simpson, one of the participating student artists. "It's the art that embraces various life issues which we not only have to look at, but think about as well. It's thought-provoking."

The exhibit title, "L'Art D'Impressions," is significant on two levels, said Simpson. "It's an artistic impression of what we create when we do printmaking on the one hand, and it's the cerebral impact on the audience on the other."

A graduate student in printmaking, Simpson's lithographs and etchings portray people reacting to the processes of personal relationships and the stresses of everyday life.

"My works deal with changes that take place in life's transitions. It's an expression of my personal experiences. I don't think there's a real status quo in this world."

"I was stationed abroad and served in the Air Force in 35 different countries," he said. "Coming back to live in America again and paint has compelled me to deal with the emotional and environmental changes and project these feelings into my art."

"My etchings speak of death, decay, aging, confrontation, love and hate, issues that dig into my often-times disturbing observations of society."

As a member of the Oregon Printmakers Studio and the

Maryland Federation of Art, Simpson has had various other exhibits throughout his art career. His works have appeared at the Maude Kerns Art Gallery and the Hult Center.

Simpson's 27 print pieces are also on display at the Fall Creek Bakery on 13th and Kincaid.

Another member of the Oregon Printmakers Studio is Tallmadge Doyle, a masters student in printmaking from Buffalo, N.Y.

Her exhibit is a collage of etchings, woodcuts, lithographs and monoprints focusing on the abstract qualities of seashells.

"I've always been interested in organic forms and have a feel for how they're formed, how their proportions are created and how their rhythms flow," said Doyle of her passion for seashells. "My work is abstract because I tend to mold my art according to how I feel."

Doyle enjoys the art of printmaking because it allows her the flexibility to explore the transformations her work goes through before it becomes what she wants to be.

Veronica Hippler dapples in a different theme altogether. She likes the bold, graphic impact of skulls and also enjoys listening to heavy metal music.

"Skulls and heavy metal work well," she said.

Her unusual exhibit is a display of stark, black and white pen and ink drawings with calligraphy that incorporate images of skulls and heavy metal lyrics.

"Because of my distinct style, many people have asked me if I'm satanic, but I tell them that I just like what I do, it's fun," said Hippler, who also transplants what she reads



University students (from left) Tallmadge Doyle, Skipper McFarlane, Rick Simpson and Veronica Hippler have their artwork on display at the Laverne Krause Gallery.

from science fiction and fantasy novels into her art.

A senior in visual design from Roseburg, Hippler also works as an assistant animator at a local animation company designing animation for computer games.

Skipper McFarlane's exhibit offers something different from the rest. His is a series of books featuring comic characters and based on interpretations of myths.

"I prefer art in a book because of its more intimate quality," McFarlane said. "The art is right there in your hands and you can appreciate it on a more personal level. Regular prints hang on the wall and it's appreciated on a more mass level.

There's a distance to it as compared to the closeness of a book."

The theme of his five books and three illustrations deal with different issues that are of personal interest to McFarlane: censorship, the creation of myths, American Indian myths and the tin woodsman in The Wizard of Oz. One book is untitled and contains abstracts of song lyrics.

"Being in the art field and all, I naturally became interested in the issue of censorship and how that affected comics and art in general," McFarlane explained. "The more I studied it, the more I wanted to make something out of it in my work and in this exhibit. I try to poke fun at the issue."

As for his fixture on myths, McFarlane said he's always enjoyed discovering how myths are created and perpetuated.

For his work on the tin woodsman, McFarlane wanted to examine the idea of how the tin woodsman had a heart but didn't know it and wanted to find it.

"I wanted to push the tin woodsman's quest in his search for a heart to the end where he finds it," said McFarlane.

The Laverne Krause Gallery, located in Room 101 Lawrence Hall, is open free to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, except state and University holidays.

For more information, call the gallery at 346-3610.

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