



Photo by Mia Bertelson
Natalie Schifrin-Whitson creates a meditative version of Ryoan-ji, a stone garden in Japan. Her work will be part of a student art exhibit that opens in the LaVerne Krause Gallery Oct. 14.

Students to put on 'gutsy' art show

By BeckieDaub
Emerald Contributor

The art work in "Graduate Students '91," an exhibit coming to the LaVerne Krause Gallery, is some of the boldest artwork in town.

Paintings, prints, ceramics, sculptures, metals, jewelry, photography, visual design - you name it, the University's fine art students have made it. Graduate students from Belgium, Hungary, Japan, New York, Alaska, Idaho, Michigan and Oregon will be displaying their works Oct. 14-25 in the gallery in Room 101 Lawrence Hall.

"It's their most gutsy show," said Ramon Murillo, this year's gallery director. Many times, artists don't show their most daring work for fear of the reactions they may provoke.

That is not the case at this show. At last year's exhibit, one student's work showed a cross and an upside down flag.

"That takes courage," Murillo said. "They're coming up with new techniques and experimenting with new ideas. They have a lot of courage to go ahead and try new concepts and techniques."

While sparking new ideas, Murillo said the show will also be professional.

"In this show we're looking for quality," he said. "I'm being selective. This is the biggest quality and quantity show of the year."

Natalie Schifrin-Whitson, a graduate student in painting, hopes students will discover the great art that is right here on campus.

"I hope viewers of the show will realize what level of mature work is being executed at the University grad level," Schifrin-Whitson said. "You don't have to go to Portland to see good work. There is no excuse, you don't even have to leave the building!"

Schifrin-Whitson finds inspiration for her work in everyday life.

"I am inspired by visual impressions I don't want to forget," Schifrin-Whitson said. "I react

to what I see and create a new vision at the same time."

She described the process as a "conversation you carry on with yourself."

Schifrin-Whitson wants her paintings to remind people that they only have one life. Her cut-and-paste style aims to make people aware of every moment. In her own words, "my paintings work like alarm clocks. They say 'Wake up! Be here now.'"

Another graduate student from Belgium, Filip Van Kerckhoven, is inspired in his painting by personal experience, travels and the great artists of the world. He said the University is the only school he has visited that has an exhibit featuring all of the art disciplines in one show.

He likes the contact with other departments.

At other universities, he hardly saw what the sculptors or photographers were doing. He sees it as a good opportunity for students to view each other's work.

Teresa Mueller, an artist from the sculpture department, hopes the show stirs things up.

"Any showing is the pleasure of sharing ideas and stirring up ideas," Mueller said. She looks forward to displaying a piece entitled "War Song."

The Gallery will be the first open space in which Mueller has had an opportunity to display her piece, other than the ping-pong table in the sculpture department.

Like many of the artist featured in the show, Mueller's future plans are "to find a way to continue after school - how to wake up and make money and make art (at the same time)."

To better appreciate the talent we have in our fine arts department, students should take a break from classes and stop by at the Gallery. Be gutsy. It will be a mind-stimulating, eye-pleasing experience.

The LaVerne Krause Gallery is only one year old. This is the second year it has hosted the annual graduate show. The Gallery is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday.



Photo by Mia Bertelson
Art student Filip Van Kerckhoven, draws inspiration for his paintings from his personal experiences, travels and the great artists of the world. His works, along with those of several students, will be on display next week at the LaVerne Krause Gallery.

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