

Artist explains chocolate, tinsel performance metaphors

By Hope Neelson
Emerald Reporter

Controversial performance artist Karen Finley gave the reasons for smearing chocolate on her body as well as thoughts behind some of her other outrageous art to a packed auditorium at Condon School Thursday.

Finley told the roughly two-thirds female and one-third male audience why she smeared chocolate, added red candies and draped tinsel on herself in her recent performance at the Hult Center.

During a slide presentation, Finley said the chocolate represented human feces and women being treated poorly in a male-dominated society. She said the red candies symbolized that after women are treated badly and feel bad, they try to feel love. The tinsel meant

that even after women are treated badly, they still make themselves look good for men and society.

At her lecture, Finley also showed slides of past performances and artwork, and commented on them.

One type of art Finley presented was postcards with inscriptions like "I shot myself because I loved you. If I loved myself I'd be shooting you." Another read: "We live in a world that loves to kill beautiful things."

Finley showed a slide of different rooms she had set up in one 5,000-square-foot installation.

One of the rooms had a spit bar in which the American and British flags were hung side by side. Upon entering the room, participants were given a glass of wine and invited to spit on the flag of their choice.

In the "woman's room," a naked woman lay curled on a bed with leaves and dead birds surrounding it. Vanities dotted the room with phrases like "I make less than a man" and "I was not expected to be talented" scrawled on the mirrors. Finley said when women read the lines, their faces appeared behind the phrases.

She said the makeup on the vanities gave the message of "put on your lipstick, it's all you have."

Male academics and intellectuals dominate the art world, and emotions should be emphasized more, she said.

"We don't really value the intuition and feeling process," Finley said.

"When I did go to art school, everything in art was male-dominated," she said. She cited the typical bent-steel sculptures commonly found in parks.

"As a woman, I can feel very well and show these feelings by taking control of my body, and not walking around like Marilyn Quayle," she said.

"I'm educated and I'm going to use my education."

After graduating, Finley wondered what she could do as an artist in this male-dominated world, she said.

"I wanted to contribute. I wanted to show a feminist perspective and intuitive way — an equal sharing of the art world and basically the political," Finley said.

Although her National Endowment for the Arts grant was revoked, Finley said she likes the idea of the NEA trying to give money to artists. Nevertheless, Finley said she is suing the NEA for taking away her grant.

Government secrecy threat to be addressed by speaker

A speech on growing governmental secrecy and the threat it poses to the Constitution will be given Monday night at 8 in 150 Columbia. The speaker is Bill Davis, a co-founder of the Christic Institute and the deputy director of its West Coast office. Since its inception 15 years ago, the Christic Institute has worked to expose questionable governmental policies and a shadowy foreign policy.

Topics that will be discussed include hidden aspects of the new world order, illegal covert operations, the Iran-Contra affair, the BCCI and S&L scandals



Bill Davis

and the role of drugs in the intelligence community.

Powwow to feature tribal dancing

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Reporter

From Salem to Klamath Falls, Native Americans from all over the state will convene at the EMU Ballroom Saturday night for the Native American Student Union's annual fall powwow.

A University tradition that's been going on for as long as NASU Co-Director Modesta Minthorn can remember, the powwow provides exhibitions of different styles of tribal dancing and a chance to relax and have fun.

"It's a gathering and a celebration of our cultures," she said. "It's a social thing where Indians get together and just visit."

From 7 to 11 p.m., participants at the free event will be able to see performances of both "traditional" and "fancy" dancing, categories commonly used at contests of Native American dancing, Minthorn said.

One difference between the two styles is the varying types of clothing the performers wear. Minthorn said it is difficult to explain further distinctions between the two categories without showing first-hand what they look like.

She said individual dancing costume styles also vary widely from tribe to tribe. For example, Native American dancers from Eastern Oregon wear deer hides and beads, while their counterparts on the coast wear costumes adorned with shells.

Experienced dancers aren't the only people that will get a chance to perform at the powwow. Minthorn said the event will also feature social dances where everybody, from children to senior citizens, will be invited to participate.

Even though the ballroom is usually packed for University powwows, Minthorn said they are small compared to similar events in other areas of the country.

"I went to a powwow this summer that had \$98,000 in prizes," she said. "If you're a good dancer, you can make \$200 to \$1,500 at a powwow."

Although money isn't involved, Minthorn is confident that the University event will be a great success.

"We go to powwows to be with people," she said. "When you hit the powwow trail, you have so many friends that you meet."

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