

# Student art exhibit pays tribute to King

By Ming Rodrigues  
Emerald Contributor

An art exhibit celebrating the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. is on display in the EMU Art Gallery, second floor, and will continue through Jan. 24.

A computer-generated art piece, a painting, a print, a memo and a bust by University fine art graduate students comprise the display that "captures the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr.," said Brenda Abney of the EMU Cultural Forum.

Bonnie Mitchell's background in computer science and fine art shows up in her work — computer art that also reflects her fascination with exploration and abstract thought.

"To Jane, With Love" is her contribution to the celebration and a tribute to a special person in her life. "I have always believed in racial harmony but have never experienced it to its fullest until I met Jane," Mitchell said in her artist's statement.

A former minority affairs coordinator at the University of Minnesota, Jeffrey Wyborny drew from his multi-cultural experiences to create his giant memo.

A graduate student in photography, Wyborny faced the challenge of coming up with

"something strong from the perspective of a white male." What resulted was an enlarged photocopy of a lettered memo that reflects the spirit and issues King represented.

It was only in this past year that Natalie Shifrin-Whitson broke away from "the claws of meaning" in her work. She always wanted to create something significant that would point to the connectedness of existence.

Her experiences "on the move" — having lived in California and in the Netherlands — have encouraged her to look for stability in the midst of chaos.

"Solidarity (*Panjo Fractis*)" is the title of Whitson's work for this exhibition. She created it in 1988 when she and her husband were living in Holland and were both involved with the activist movement there.

"This work is the result of me trying to come to terms with the daily news and reflect on the often fragile yet necessary bonds which sustain us," Whitson said.

Other pieces on display include "Ayorinde," a bust of an elderly black slave by Devin Field; and "Spirit Transformation," a print by Ramon Murillo.

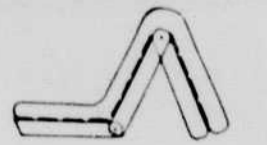
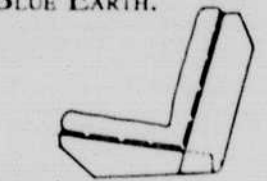
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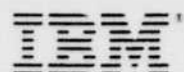
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