

Computerized art on display

Pat Daly
Oregon Daily Emerald

The School of Architecture and Allied Arts is hosting several cultural events preceding celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan. 16.

The Laverne Krause Gallery in Lawrence Hall is housing several art shows encompassing a general theme of "Building Bridges" between cultures.

An Internet/Fax art show called "Bridges Built, Bridges Burned" opens Monday. Artists and writers from around the world will be faxing their submissions to the gallery throughout the week. Calls for submissions went out over Internet earlier last week.

"This show came about through a long process," said Jane Maitland-Gholson, associate arts and administration professor and coordinator of Martin Luther King Jr. celebration events.

"Initially we wanted to put out some kind of challenge campus-wide for work for a show," Maitland-Gholson said. But she said the relatively small space in the gallery and the unknown amount of work such a challenge would generate combined to be prohibitive, Maitland-Gholson said.

Then the idea of exhibiting the relatively new area of computer generated art was suggested.

"We have the computer graphics area," Maitland-Gholson said. "People... are really interested in computing and are thinking of computing as an art form. Out on the Internet, a challenge has gone out for work where people can respond to the notion of building bridges and burning bridges, particularly in relation to the legacy of Martin Luther King," she said.

Leon Johnson, an assistant professor in fine and applied arts and a native of South Africa, organized this event. Events in South Africa over the last couple of years, with the fall of Apartheid, is where the notion of Burning Bridges started.

Maitland-Gholson said about 20 sites internationally have been solicited for submissions to the show, but local submissions are welcome.

Submissions can be faxed to the show at 346-2057 or be made by E-mail to: mlkfax@aaa.uoregon.edu. The Internet/FAX show runs through Friday.

Johnson will give a gallery talk "Process, Work, Story: Twenty Years in South Africa." Johnson will speak about his experiences growing up in South Africa from the perspective of being a young white man in that nation. Johnson's talk will be in room 115 Lawrence Hall at 7 p.m. Monday.

The other exhibit, photography by Doris Ulmann entitled "Roll, Jordan, Roll" also is at the Laverne Krause Gallery. Ulmann's work, shot in the Depression era, focuses on the lives of the Gullah Culture of South Carolina. Her work documents slave descendants who developed their own culture, a mix of Christianity and African spiritualism.

Maitland-Gholson said the main core of the Gullah culture existed in the coastal islands of South Carolina, cut off from other cultures because there were no bridges. As a result, there is little documentation of the culture itself.

"That's one of the things Doris Ulmann was doing," Maitland-Gholson said. "By the time these people were sort of 'encountered' in the 1930s, bridges were being built, literally, to the islands and their culture was beginning to be affected by contact with whites."

Part of the focus of this show is the religious practices of the Gullah people.

"Interestingly enough," said Maitland-Gholson, "their religious practices became a real blend of Christianity that was picked up during the slavery days and their original African religion."

The Ulmann show runs through Friday. Hours for the Laverne Krause Gallery are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Other events scheduled for this week include a panel discussion titled "A House Is Not A Machine For Living In: Bridging Cultures With Alternative Views On The Meaning Of Architecture." This discussion will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 115 Lawrence Hall. From 1:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday the Museum of Natural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. hosts "Building Bridges Culture Fest," featuring African dance, Ukrainian dance instruction, Latin music and numerous traditional arts. Admission is free. For more information call the museum at 346-3024.

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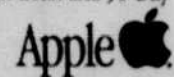
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