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Master of Fine Arts Exhibition opens

■ **SHOW:** Movement, space and sound are explored in this year's student work

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

For University fine arts degree candidates, all the hard work will pay off today. The annual University Master of Fine Arts Exhibition opens today at the University Museum of Art, featuring the works of 14 MFA students.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, is the culmination of the MFA program. Featured pieces represent all art media, including painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics.

"The pieces featured were created especially for this exhibition," said Heather Brown, museum collections assistant and public relations representative. "[The students] are learning how to produce their own art in a museum environment."

The exhibition fulfills the final requirements for the master of fine arts degree, which is the most advanced degree for studio work in fine arts offered at the University.

"It's been quite illuminating and a lot of fun," said Doug McGraw, an MFA candidate. "I'd been cooped up in the studio and not really able to see things in a bigger space."

McGraw will feature his reduction woodcut piece titled "Fur Tile Germ in Nation."

"The closer I got to finishing, the more excited I got to see it up," he said.



MATHEW STIFFLEVER/emerald

Doug McGraw, a masters of fine arts candidate, puts the finishing touches on his piece for the exhibit, "Fur Tile Germ in Nation."

The exhibition features a range of installation work, art that uses space, movement and sound in order to incorporate a different dimension. Installation work is created in conjunction with other media.

"It is a process of making you closer to the artist," Brown said. "Many students have chosen installation, and space is a commodity around here."

The installation works made the exhibition preparation tricky, organizers said.

"This was a difficult show to design," Exhibit Designer Kurt

Neugebauer said. "It was a challenge to bring dissimilar media together in a cohesive, pleasing way. It was crazy and hectic, but it was fun."

"When everything is said and done, I think [the students] will be very pleased."

The opening reception for the exhibition will take place tonight.

"This is a chance for students to see what other students are creating," Brown said. "These are students who are probably going to move on and out of Oregon and continue to create."

Events celebrate Cinco de Mayo holiday

■ **HISTORY:** Films, a banquet and talent show will highlight the historical significance of the Mexican holiday

Andrew Parmentier
Freelance Reporter

Events on campus and in the community this week will celebrate the Mexican holiday known as Cinco de Mayo.

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) will sponsor various events around campus, including movies about the Mexican-American civil rights movements and a banquet honoring graduating Chicanos and community members.

They will also host the third-annual "Explosion," a talent show to take place in the EMU dining room, which will showcase examples of Hispanic imagination and culture.

A large percentage of the student population, including students of Hispanic background, is

unaware of the cultural and historical significance of Cinco de Mayo, said Daniel Garcia, co-director of MEChA.

"[This lack of awareness] stems from a poor public school system and a one-sided curriculum," Garcia said.

The Cinco de Mayo holiday is a combination of two historically significant events. The first is Mexican Independence Day, Sept. 10, 1810, when Mexico declared its independence from Spain. The second is May 5, 1862, when Mexican soldiers successfully defeated the French.

The Cinco de Mayo celebration will allow a wide variety of Hispanic and non-Hispanic people to take part in Mexican culture.

"This is a time for people of Mexican heritage to reaffirm their culture," said Jim Garcia, advising coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

In addition to the lack of interest or understanding of Mexico's history, there is a deeper problem facing Chicano students, Jim Garcia said.

They're still here!

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