

WALKING DISTANCE

Rhythm & Reviews' weekly feature on art, entertainment or cuisine near campus

Gallery shows local artwork

The LaVerne Krause Gallery is a small, on-campus art gallery that changes its exhibits weekly

By Nikki Okimoto
Freelance Reporter

Stressed out from running all over campus trying to get ready for finals? Take a few minutes to relax and check out some interesting local artwork, which is located right in the center of campus at the LaVerne Krause Gallery in Lawrence Hall.

The LaVerne Krause Gallery opened in 1990 to honor the late LaVerne Krause, founder of the printmaking program in the fine arts department, award-winning artist and beloved mentor to many students. The gallery features works from fine arts department students and faculty members, and it occasionally has displays from other local artists.

The gallery is small, and it doesn't take long to look around. The exhibits usually change each week, so this intimate gallery offers a lot of variety despite its

small size.

The LaVerne Krause Gallery is currently featuring a special two-week show of works by Oregon State University fine arts and graphic design faculty members.

This diverse show, with sculptures, graphic arts, oil paintings, photography and other mediums, ranges from the thought provoking to the downright disturbing. In other words, it's a must-see.

The OSU Faculty Show will run through March 14.

A new exhibit usually opens each Monday at the gallery, with a reception and refreshments provided during the opening evening from 7 to 9. The reception will offer a chance for the public to meet the artists and discuss their work.

The gallery, open from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Fridays, is free and open to the public.

REVIEW

LaVerne Krause Gallery

★★★
(small gallery, interesting shows)

■ **WHERE:** Lawrence Hall, main floor

■ **HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

■ **COST:** free



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald
A browser looks at a piece of art in the LaVerne Krause Gallery.

Apple: Swing dancer recalls performing on Broadway during 1930s

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Steele, who has arranged the workshop in the Northwest."

Wood began dancing at an early age. While growing up in South Carolina, she took many different types of dance lessons, including ballet, tap and toe. By the time she was 15, she was assisting dance classes.

"I was taking both piano and dance lessons, and I didn't care for either of them. Finally, I was told that I could choose between the two of them, and I chose dancing. I've been doing it ever since," Wood said.

Wood first learned to dance the Big Apple while on a South Carolina beach during the summer of 1937, when she was 16. In the 60 years that have passed, Wood has seen quite a bit change in national trends and lifestyles.

"When we first started doing the Big Apple, everybody wore saddle shoes. The trend was to wear them, but not to polish them," Wood said. "Back then boys were wearing slacks with the legs rolled up. They just didn't wear jeans unless they were from the country."

"Girls had skirts that twirled outward. When we first started in 1937, the skirts came down to mid-knee level. By the next year they came to our mid-calves," she said.

In September of 1937, Wood and 15 other teens were invited to New York City to show off the new dance craze on Broadway.

"Being selected to go dance in New York was very exciting. I was very pleased and proud to think that people thought I was that good. Both me and my part-

ner

Some parents thought the dances were too wild, almost naughty. I was just doing it for my own entertainment. I found the Apple dances to be a good release.

— Betty Wood
Swing dancer

ner were full of moves and twirls, which they liked. Of course, I can't spin that fast now," said Wood, who will be 76 in May.

While performing on Broadway, she was doing six shows a day to audiences of up to 6,000 each show. With such success, the show soon moved off Broadway to other venues, including

the Hollywood Restaurant, Madison Square Garden, The Astor, The Rainbow Room, and the Waldorf Astoria.

"The Big Apple was a wonderful ice breaker at that time. You danced in a circle, and you could make the circle as large as you want it to be. After we did our show, we would invite people from out of the audience to try it. Most of them usually did try it," Wood said.

Once her group finished performing in New York, eight members of the group, including Wood, were selected to travel across the nation and teach the Big Apple.

"Many people around the nation called the dances a craze. Some parents thought that they were too wild, almost naughty," Wood said. "I was just doing it for

my own entertainment. I found the Apple dances to be a good release."

The Eugene dance workshop Wood is participating in will take place tonight through Sunday. Tonight's workshop is in the Gerlinger Annex and will cover the Shag dance. The workshop on March 8 will also be in the Gerlinger Annex and will cover the Shag and both Apple dances. On March 9, the workshop will be at Kelly Middle School and will have instruction on both the vintage Shag dance and the Little Apple.

Once Wood is done in Eugene, she plans to keep on dancing.

"This July, Lance and I are going to fly to Sweden for another workshop. Would you believe that will be my first time out of the United States?"

Scandals

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