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On Thursday
Metalsmithing
students are
feeling "blue."

DOWNTOWN Pulse

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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Sculptures grace the streets of Downtown Eugene on Broadway and Willamette Street where art galleries provide an interesting stroll through the artistic realm.

Downtown: where it's art

Downtown Eugene's numerous galleries provide a free and visually stimulating afternoon

Jacquelyn Lewis
Pulse Editor

Willamette Street is bustling on an unseasonably warm Saturday, and soft afternoon light filters into Eugene's Downtown art galleries. The area is a virtual treasure trove of creation and contemplation, and while students might not have enough money to purchase any of the collections, viewing this art is an afternoon well spent — and absolutely free.

Inside White Lotus Gallery at 767 Willamette St., the sunshine radiates off paintings and ceramics, illuminating art from today all the way back to the 15th century.

"This gallery is dedicated to Asian art and showing high-end artifacts," owner Dick Easley said. Easley, a University alumnus, operates the gallery with alumna Hue-Ping Lin.

"Our stock and trade is contemporary Chinese prints and paintings and modern and antique Japanese prints," he said.

Easley also pointed out ceramics from a 15th-century Vietnamese shipwreck and pottery from local artist Dan Schmitt, whose work has been commissioned by the Smithsonian Institution. A deeper look into the gallery's winding back room uncovers additional paintings, small artifacts and



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Galleries in the Downtown area exhibit international pieces and installations unique to the Eugene area.

antique Japanese furniture.

The gallery — in its 11th year of business — is currently hosting "Food is..." a benefit for FOOD for Lane County displaying local artists' perceptions of food. The show will continue through March 28. In conjunction with the benefit, White Lotus will host the Empty Bowls Sale on March 7, where customers can purchase a bowl and receive a coupon for free soup at one of Eugene's restaurants.

Easley said the gallery also

attracts art lovers because it contains artwork they might not see elsewhere. The collection, open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., includes many contemporary Chinese prints and paintings from the region's leading academics.

"In some cases, we're the only gallery in the United States showing this work," he said.

Easley emphasized that students should not be intimidated by the gallery's artistic atmosphere.

"We sincerely welcome stu-

dents," he said. "This is not a snobby gallery. It's a friendly place."

Gallery director Brent Houston said Criterion Gallery, located at 790 Willamette St., also welcomes students, whether they want to view the gallery's current exhibits or propose their own.

The bulk of Criterion's displays come from Oregon artists. Houston, who became director nearly four months ago, said the gallery is

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Eugene Station runs the gamut of demographics

Eugene Station, the hub for local LTD busses, provides a bustling social scene for people from all walks of life

Reporter's notebook

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

I woke up early on a cloudy Sunday, a time when some college students are either sleeping in or hung over from another Saturday night of indulgence and avarice. The question weighing on my mind during this already atypical morning was: Is there such a thing as bus "culture"?

I headed Downtown to Eugene Station, departing from the University Station on Kincaid Street. Students ride the bus free, as long as they have their student ID. However, it was a mistake to assume busses would be running at the same frequency on the weekends as the weekdays. On Sundays, they come in intervals of hours instead of minutes. Rather than waiting another hour for a bus to take me Downtown, I elected to reach Eugene Station — my destination of choice — by foot.

When I arrived, I sat down to observe the

place silently. The station was mostly desolate, yet there were still things to see. An older gentleman with a walking stick circumnavigated the lettered arrival points, apparently looking at bus times. A police car drove around both of the station's throughways. A boxed-in parked car close to the McDonald Theatre pulled out and drove into the station, clanking down off the thick edge of the sidewalk.

Eventually, this form of observation became redundant. I moved into the LTD Center building in search of some experiences and stories from the employers at the counter. However, they declined to comment and instead referred me to the public relations telephone number.

Over at the New Odyssey Juice and Java Bar on the corner of West 10th Avenue and Willamette Street, I talked to manager Walt Hunt, and was beginning to make some progress in my search.

"There's a definite bus culture," Hunt said. "It brings people together, different layers of society — people who live in tents, street kids, businessmen, high school kids. That's what's interesting, seeing all these mixes of people; it's a real socializer."

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Emerald

Eugene Station serves as a nexus for both social interaction and transportation.