

# Amongst students, faculty, community

The Town hall style forum...  
Want to hear from the artist."

"This is part of a series of attacks on Catholic celibacy and the papacy."

"We don't want to be 'pablum-ized' to avoid offending."

Why does art have to have a redeeming quality?"

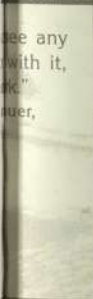
Community's interest is a sacred trust, but not limitless"

Freedom and responsibility must in balance."

er to commu-  
When art is  
propaganda,  
appropriate in an

"Such a teeny, tiny percentage of tax money goes to art. I'm offended that ten cents of my money goes to weapons."

What they thought of "Two popes boinking" and how they responded...



△  
"I thought it was kind of weird looking."  
Ryan Rudge,  
Emergency Medical Technician

"I find it creative, it's just his way of expressing himself."  
Fawnia LeDuc,  
Pharmacy



◁ "I wouldn't consider it art."  
Jeff Meuser,  
undecided

PHOTOS BY SALENA DE LA CRUZ

Other works from the "Hey I cracked my Knuckles" series.

## Artist's Statement...

Gene Flores is a south Texan artist, art instructor at El Paso's University of Texas and creator of the "Hey I cracked my Knuckles" series displayed in the Pauling Gallery Feb. 13-17. The series contained the piece "Two popes boinking" responds to the controversy in a statement sent via e-mail to David Anderson, art instructor.

"Hey I cracked my knuckles" is a series based on the blind "faith" that many of us follow in daily routine. Cracking one's knuckles means I have had enough of following a path and following all the rules that had been placed by others upon me. The faith that I refer to is in no sense a biblical nor religious one, but rather one in which we place our emotions, trust and feelings into another's control and hope that they do the best for us. We follow whatever they may want, blindly at times and take it for granted that all they have chosen for us are the right choices. I am in the midst of following my own path, one I have set for myself. Unfortunately it has placed others at arms length, and others have become defensive that I have chosen to speak for myself.

Here is where the true essence of my work lies. I speak for myself not others. I do not wish to place my thoughts nor ideas upon others, for by doing so, I will become all that I am rebelling against. I do my works knowing that some people will not appreciate what I am portraying, but that is out of my control. If people become offended I cannot, and will not allow myself to bend my ways to please them because doing so I will inevitably offend others. It is a lose-lose situation.

"Popes Boinking" and "The Pope is Telling Them Off for Boinking Little Boys" is not an attack on the Catholic Church nor on any other religious beliefs. It is a play on words. Once again the word "pope" is something that we all have an association with, one that has been placed and imbedded into our thoughts by outside forces. By using that term, I am aware that people will associate it with the religious icon that it represents, but it goes far beyond that. The term pope refers to a spiritual head of any various non-Christian religions, or peoples of knowledge, i.e., schoolmasters, professors. I am using that term of the pope to portray instances in my life where I have felt betrayed by these people. "Popes Boinking" shows the constant conflict between my new path and the path that was chosen for me. It is a personal struggle, I feel that I am screwing myself over by being so bullheaded!!

"The Pope is Telling Them Off for Boinking Little Boys" tells the story of a person in authority using people that are dependent (i.e. children) on others to place himself as a person to be worshipped. The spider reference to the icon represents his spinning his web of lies and deceit to capture his "prey". The hats worn by these people do resemble papal headdress but also refer to the hats worn by many during the Spanish Inquisition. Crosses, not crucifixes, are a Native American symbol, they also represent the handle of daggers, and lastly the crossroads that I am headed in. Decisions that we all have to make in our daily lives. Decisions we make, not ones that are made for us, is what life is all about. Freedom to make our own choices.



"Bee Queen"



"Vices of Evil"



"The pope is telling them off for boinking little boys"



"Virgin of Marmusetta"

The following was written by an English instructor while visiting an art show with her class  
**This Piece Removed from the Exhibit Due to Complaints Regarding the Misuse of Fruit Imagery (Sign found above a blank, white space)**

By Diana Averill

The bolts remain, and the white wall, and the absence of misused fruit.

The watermelon whose insides were scooped was seedless to begin with. Not fair for us to view the green cave that was all the artist left.

And the cantaloupe has gone rolling somewhere in the sky, but the viewer shouldn't worry. It's happier as the fifth moon of Jupiter. Only the apple, discolored,

bruised, definitely misused, is to be pitied. It hides its starry, black beginnings from those who want it only for its beautiful gold skin.

Someone disliked how the grapes hung, how they invited mouths to cover their green nipples.

Before the removal of the fruit there was no reason for guilt. After the misuse of removal, the fruit imagined its roots, regenerated in other paintings and hung itself, not in despair, but, yes, in secret.

All over the city, fruit crept into other paintings. Raspberry juice dripped from a watercolor brush. Figs, peeled down to their inner chambers, shrugged off one acrylic attempt to cover them with their own leaves.

Arms blossomed. Artists marveled at their originality as the fruit reasserted its origins. Sculptures became fruit orchards, producing cherries even the most cranky of complainers would not hesitate to keep, though perhaps disguised in pies.