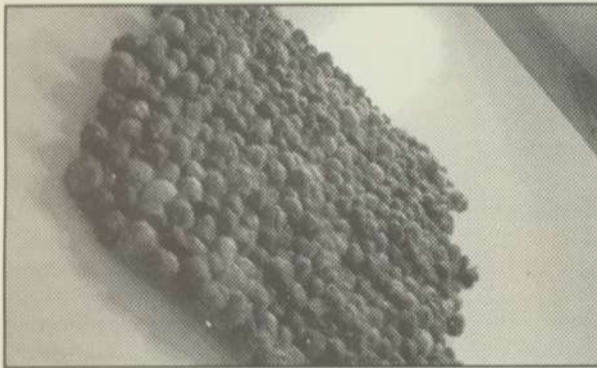


Former student's art is on display

Jen Kane
A & E Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 9, Kate Simmons presented her artwork that is going to be up on display in the Pauling Gallery. Simmons, a former Clackamas student, has a number of large and medium-size pieces, all of which are crafted out of natural materials.

To admire her work, you don't even have to enter the Pauling building. Outside of the annex by the Community Center sits a set of sizeable, welded wire pods that are rusted. This piece is also part of Simmons' collection.



LUKE MAHAN Clackamas Print

Kate Simmons' created her piece "Hair #2" after collecting hair from different salons.

Her work is constructed in a barn belonging to her parents in Molalla. Admirers will notice at first glance the time and effort put into each one of her pieces. They all seem as though they would be quite tedious to construct, but Simmons is very passionate about her work.

Many of her pieces may not be recognizable as art until they are actually hung on the wall or displayed in a case. Who would think that a grouping of rolled up scotch tape would draw a lot of attention? But it does. "There's a lot of materials out there to use," Simmons notes. "You shouldn't limit yourself."

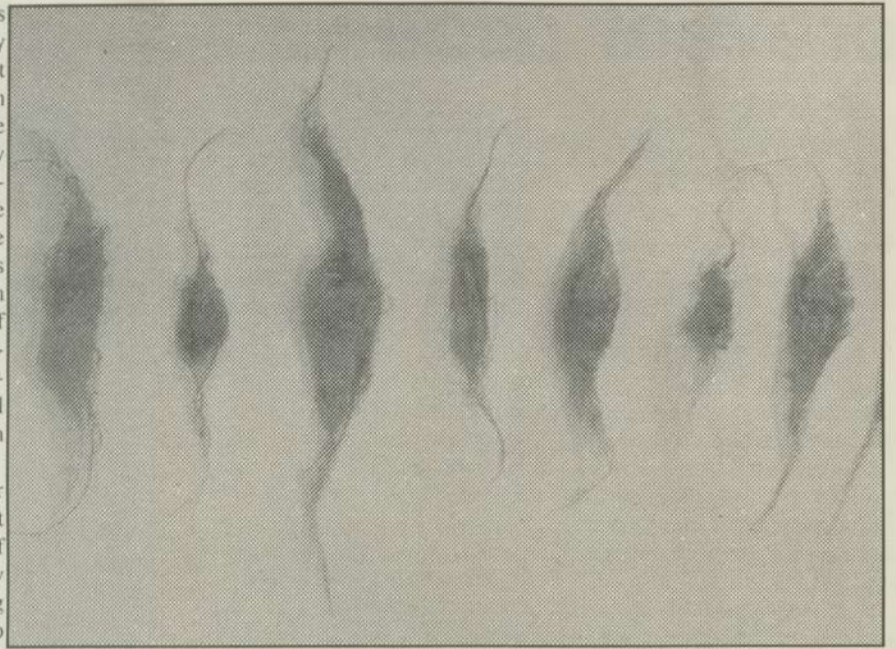
The motivation for "Sticks #1" came to Simmons while she was watching her mother prune their cherry tree.

Each of the branches stemming out from the center is actually a year's worth of growth.

"A lot of my work is about collecting materials," Simmons says. She created one

of her smaller pieces entitled "Hair #1," by collecting the hair out of her brush. She then kept it for a while before she knew exactly what she wanted to do with it. The long, connected maze of lines is what was constructed. This then led to the creation of "Hair #2." It was composed by the accumulation of hair from all of the salons in Molalla.

Not only is her work magnificent, but also Simmons herself is an extraordinary person. While waiting for her presentation to begin she took the time to talk to anybody who wished, including longtime friend Bee Smith, who met Simmons while taking a ceramics class at the college. When complimented Simmons shyly blushes and turns her head. "One day she'll be rich and famous and I can say I knew her when," Smith tells an onlooker. With this Simmons quietly chuckles and embarrassingly looks the other way.



LUKE MAHAN Clackamas Print

Practically all of Simmons' art work is made after she collects natural materials. This piece, entitled "Hemp #2" is made of hemp fiber that has been glued together and shaped into rolls.

So what's next for Kate Simmons? She just recently received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts and would like to get her masters, though she is undecided on a school.

But art is not the only thing that keeps Simmons busy. In fact, it is probably what she spends the least

of her time working on. Everyday she works from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at two different jobs. On the weekends she remains social with her family and friends.

Simmons' art is on display in the Pauling Gallery located outside of the lecture rooms. It will remain on exhibit until Dec. 2.

'Exit the King' receives a rave review

Elisabeth Meyer
Feature Editor

When Imago actors can make me flashback to 10th grade Health and Wellness class clearly enough to remember the DABDA acronym and still send me home happy, you know something powerful has happened onstage. At times humorous but eventually sobering, the company's current project, the rarely-performed "Exit the King," is Eugene Ionesco's painstaking look at the stages of death: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

As if taken straight out of Elisabeth Kuebler-Ross' treatise, King Berenger's (director Jerry Mouawad) moods change as his

confidence in his immortality erodes. He's scornful when his grimly realistic Queen Marguerite (Carol Triffle) announces he will die "at the end of the show." When confronted with the surrealistically rapid disintegration of his body and kingdom, he tries to cut a deal with no one in particular: "Let every human creature die but me. I'll miss them quite sincerely!"

Once you realize the play consists entirely of Berenger's progression through these stages—and that doesn't take long—the other actors become much more interesting. The servant girl Juliette (Amanda Wilkins), guard (Timothy Scarrott) and doctor (Song Kim) recall details from the king's life, shedding light on a self-absorbed 400-year reign. The two queens, Marguerite and the

romantic Marie (Tina Satter), exert opposite influences on Berenger. Marie indulges him, reassuring him that he can recover. Marguerite, who delivers her lines in an increasingly aggressive monotone, seems to take pleasure in the king's frailties. She is Berenger's guide to the end.

The magic here is in what Imago has added to the text. Although Ionesco wrote in amusing anachronisms, such as a modern wheelchair for what Ionesco called his "vaguely gothic" kingdom, it's Imago's own intercom, which the guard uses to give verbal press releases. Saber in hand, he bellows the updates he's gleaned from conversation: "The charm of Queen Marie no longer casts its spell over the King!" and "Constellations old or new no longer interest King Berenger!"



INTERNET PHOTO

The sobering play "Exit the King" is now playing at Imago Theater and will run until Nov. 3.

Another special Imago addition is the use of microphones to express the most personal part of a character's lines. Mouawad, who directed as well as acted, adopted the style "to create kind of a subconscious." At best, the lines come across as the characters' private thoughts. At worst, it's merely extraneous.

Most of the appeal of "Exit the King" is in the words. The stage is a bare, decrepit throne room; props are minimal and intentionally ridiculous. When the cast members finally move with any real haste, it's exciting.

"We were surprised at how much laughter there was," Mouawad said in a meeting with the audience after the opening show. "It's a really hard play. I think we just tried to do this play. We didn't try to experiment too much."

"Exit the King" runs through Nov. 3 at Imago Theatre, which is located at 17 SE 8th Street in Portland. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$21 for senior/youth or \$24 for adults.

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