

# Fountain faces speak true meaning

**Katie Wilson**  
The Clackamas Print

The faces watch as students smoke, talk, hurry by—whatever students do when they aren't noticing the fountain between Streeter, Gregory Forum and the Dye Learning Center. The faces are amused, thoughtful, sad, wide-eyed, happy and very much there.

They are the faces of William Shakespeare, Charles Darwin, Miles Davis, Florence Nightingale, Sojourner Truth, Johann Gutenberg, Luca Pacioli, and many others.

Portland artist Lee Hunt created the faces in the fountain nearly 13 years ago. She began work on them in July 1992.

"It was wonderful to be able to gain a deeper view of these people, some of who I had never heard of," Hunt had told reporters from *The Print* in '92.

The fountain was unveiled Wednesday, April 7, 1993.

The faces were chosen to represent a part of each college department. The math department nominated Greek mathematician and physicist, Archimedes, and held a raffle to pay for the construction of his face. The art department

and the Spanish Club sponsored the making of Mexican painter and teacher Frida Kahlo's fountain face.

All the faces ended up being sponsored directly by the actual college departments or by individuals and clubs. One thing that was made clear from the beginning was that the college wanted this fountain to be built on money from inside the school.

John Hooley, former assistant dean of humanities, said in '93 upon the fountain being unveiled that "The atmosphere here is different [than it used to be]" and that art "helps us look more like a college ... [art] adds to the appearance."

The fountain has been around for nearly 13 or 14 years now and shows no signs of going away. One of its original purposes was to stand as a reminder of a very diverse group of people from across the span of history.

So it is a continued hope that students will look at the fountain and be motivated to add to their communities and be inspired to learn about these people, the great things they have done, and the impact they have had on the entire world.



Norma Martinez Clackamas

The fountain located between Streeter Hall, Gregory Forum and the Dye Learning Center was created by artist Lee Hunt in 1993, displaying the faces of important figures in history.

# Instructor takes photography beyond just aim and click

**Jadon Triplett**  
The Clackamas Print

Photography teacher Smith Eliot loves to teach photography, but admits she can be "a bit of a Nazi" when teaching.

"I'm hard," says Eliot, "but [students] will come out of my class knowing a lot of stuff [about photography]." Eliot teaches three photography classes in the art department, photography I, II, and III.

"Photo I is really important because you [have to] get your skills on. If you don't have your skills on you can't do the business," says Eliot.

"We start out by doing photographs ... where we take a bunch of semi-transparent, opaque, reflective, weird stuff, stick it down on paper and make a design by shining the light through

them, or by shining the light into them then moving them, and re-shining the light on the paper," Eliot says.

"It's a way for [students] to think about how to make a photo in the first place."

Eliot thinks there is a big problem with how people see photography.

"People think that photographs show you things in the real world. I'm here to say that's a bunch of bullshit. Photographs are constructions ... you're holding the camera, you're choosing how you place things in the

frame," Eliot says. "After all is said and done, you have a choice on how you develop the film

... all along the way you are making a conscious choice about things that you shot a picture of. By the time you get the picture, it's not the thing anymore. It's a picture. It's a photograph. It's a piece of art in its own right."

"People assume certain things about photography ... our culture promotes that. If you watch [crime programs on television], they will

go and take pictures of the crime scene, then [use the photo to] tell what actually happened," Eliot says. "The photo is a document ... I think that is one of photography's most interesting aspects; we think it's a document, so it's fun to sort of diddle around with people's expectations."

Other Photography I projects include surfaces and portraits. Every term, photo-grams, surfaces, and portraits remain constant, because they teach basic skills that Eliot feels need to be impressed on her students.

Photography II and III (which will be the same course spring term), unlike Photography I, are subject to change. Photography one will stay the same because it produces people who know what they are doing better than other photography one classes she has done in the past, according to Eliot.

One project that Eliot is one called "fabricated to be photographed." "[Fabricated to be photographed] means that whatever you do, it [to] be fake. You fabricate something for the sake of being photographed. Students from Photo I know that this is what I am about."

The only projects Smith Eliot is absolutely sure she will teach in Photography II and III spring term are "fabricated to be photographed" and "infrared landscapes." She is also interested in doing "mural prints," but has made that decision yet.

Those interested in seeing Smith Eliot's work can check out her website, [www.smitheliot.com](http://www.smitheliot.com). There is also a gallery featuring her students' work.

"My students rock," says Eliot.

*"We think [photography is] a document so it's fun to sort of diddle around with people's expectations."*

**Smith Eliot**  
Photography Instructor



Smith Eliot Contributed photos

LEFT: Photo-based art by Smith Eliot titled "The Hunger of Memory I." RIGHT: Photo-based art by Smith Eliot titled "Hearth."

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