

# Sculptor inspired by nature

**Katie Wilson**

Co-Editor-in-Chief

There is no such thing as a normal journey through life.

At least, that's what visiting artist Julie Speidel has proven.

Speidel came to the campus last Thursday to give a lecture about her work. This visit is part of the fifth Outdoor Sculpture Exposition that opened last Monday and will run through July 7.

Speidel was raised in the Northwest and Europe, and studied language in France prior to attending the Cornish Institute and the University of Washington to pursue art.

She then worked as a jeweler before turning to concentrate on large sculpture.

"My art grew out of jewelry-making," she said.

Her sculptures and fountains are everywhere: in galleries, museums, private collections, universities and embassies.

Sitting at the front of the art studio in Room 108 of the

Art Center, photos of her work projected on the screen behind her, Speidel shared theories and ideas concerning art.

"I hope to give you a window between what we see and what we create," she said.

Her work, she says, emphasizes forms and shapes found in the natural world. She says it is the "human impulse to act on nature."

She does not see herself as an avant-garde artist. She is influenced by early, traditional art.

"[Art that] grounds us as human beings," she said, but still "keeps us in a state of awe."

As humans and artists, she says, we need a "sense of residence and familiarity."

She finds herself continually going back to the same "enduring" forms, such as the cylinder, the cone, and especially the circle.

"The circle is a recurring, constant image," she said. "I don't mean a perfectly round circle." She showed pictures of bones and stones.

"Circles imply a certain



Adam J. Mantley Clackamas Print

LEFT: Speidel, a world-renowned artist, speaks to Art Instructor Rick True before giving her presentation. Her works have been showcased in galleries and national embassies.



Internet Photo

ABOVE: Speidel's sculpture "A Ring Around Unfolding." Many of her works incorporate or take the form of circles. BELOW: "Tyana," another sculpture, in fabricated bronze. Speidel draws much inspiration from ancient cultures.



SPEIDEL

motion, a sense of movement," she said.

The standing human figure is fundamental in her art, modern totem poles for modern times.

"We see the human form every day ... it's endlessly portrayed [in art]," she said, "but it remains compelling."

She names her sculptures after various deities from many different cultures. Countries and cultures inspire her.

Much of her work is made from bronze, but she does not feel limited by this in any way.

"I remain most drawn to metal," she said. She does experiment with other mediums, though, such as glass and sandstone. "I am always stretched by the unique qualities of the material."

As she closed her lecture, she thanked the audience and reminded them that: "Paying attention to what we see and experience is a great gift."

The Art Department has arranged for a lecture from another artist, Roberto Salas, to take place May 17 from 2 to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact the Art Department at (503) 657-6958, ext. 2386.



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## Staying quiet to make a statement

**Laura Cameron**

Feature Editor

In a world of soundbites and Howard Dean screams, giving nothing can make an exceptionally loud statement.

That's the goal of the National Day of Silence. Held every April 18, the Day of Silence is less of a protest than it is a show of solidarity with the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (or LGBT) community. Participants do not speak, and often do not write, type or communicate in any other way, to symbolize the silence endured every day by LGBT youth.

The Day of Silence started at the University of Virginia in 1996. At just over 150 participants, the day was considered a success by its organizers. The next year, with a Web site and the word "national" tacked onto its name, the National Day of Silence was picked up by

nearly 100 colleges nationwide, and an adaptation of the program was implemented in Australia.

"It is absolutely important," said Ted Johnson, the "unofficial president" of the Gay-Straight Alliance here at Clackamas. "It symbolizes how queer students feel silenced in our society."

Johnson can understand that feeling. "My high school was very conservative. We

didn't have a GSA; we were too afraid to start one.

"I'm very glad for the GSA. It's made me who I am today."

The members of the Clackamas GSA will be participating in the Day of Silence, and all other students are encouraged to join in.

"It's not just a 'gay' thing," said Johnson. "Anyone can participate."

The specific goal of the Day of Silence is to help bring about an end to harassment of LGBT youth. However, it also serves as a platform to raise awareness about the homosexual, bisexual and transgendered members of our community. Johnson himself hopes for greater understanding. "Some people they just don't think of it as a real love, and that bothers me."

More information, plus additional resources, can be found at [www.dayofsilence.org](http://www.dayofsilence.org).



Illustration by Kayla Berge Clackamas Print