

# Student art unlocked



Keyless Entry," a sculpture made by Clackamas Community College student Twila Lavery, is on display in the Alexander Gallery as part of the Lee Hutchinson Student Art Show.

**By Mandie Gavitt**  
Associate Arts & Culture Editor

For the next three weeks, the Alexander Gallery has been transformed into Clackamas Community College's art gallery for the Lee Hutchinson Student Art Show. All student-submitted art, the gallery has been taken with digital videos, ceramics, sculptures, paintings, photographs and drawings.

According to art student Chelsy King, displaying art at the exhibit cost \$1 per submission and the pieces displayed were determined by art teachers on campus. King said she felt that being in the art exhibit was a honor and a resume builder. "We have a great art team," she said.

Jack True, a CCC art instructor involved in deciding what went into the exhibit, said that they tried to make sure that every student who submitted art had their work displayed, though some pieces were not accepted because the artist had other work that better represented their talents.

Student Crystal Mann said a sculpture titled "Keyless Entry" caught her eye. "Someone had to put a lot of thought into it; it's unique," she said.

The artwork submitted was judged for a number of criteria, and winners were determined by George Green, a professional Portland artist. Green said that judging was difficult because of the amount of talent that was displayed by the students, but despite the huge responsibility he thought it was fun.

There are a lot of talented people floating around campus, Green said about the art that students displayed in the exhibit. "If someone else judged the competition, they

would have picked totally different pieces, but they'd still be correct."

Green gave a 30 minute talk in the gallery to acknowledge those that won awards and all those that had art displayed. During the talk he warned that the winners and losers were determined by his own bias and that the artists should not read too much into the decisions he made.

"There is always danger in giving awards where people don't know what they mean," said Green. "Those who didn't win awards may be better off than those that did."

"The real heartbreaks are those that could have easily been chosen but weren't," Green said, acknowledging the talent in the pieces that did not win prizes. "All artists fail 98 percent of the time. None of it means anything."

According to Green, the way to be an artist is to make art for yourself until it begins to come out more naturally or, as he called it, on "autopilot."

"This place is doing you a big favor by making the student art show a big deal," said Green in his speech.

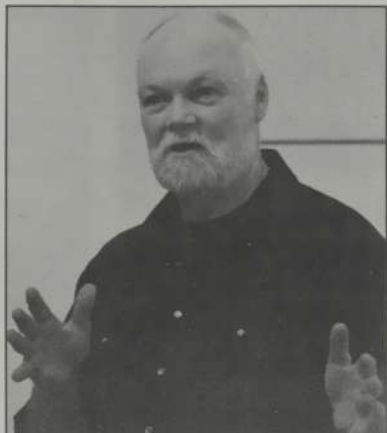
Student Hector Ornelas won best in show for a simple painting of a square on a piece of metal called "Pencil on top of a painted square." When asked how it felt to be acknowledged by a professional artist, Ornelas said it felt "unreal."

He said the piece came out of an assignment for class as well as the Internet. He had picked the piece to be displayed last minute because he happened to have it on hand in his locker; he hadn't originally planned on displaying work in the gallery.

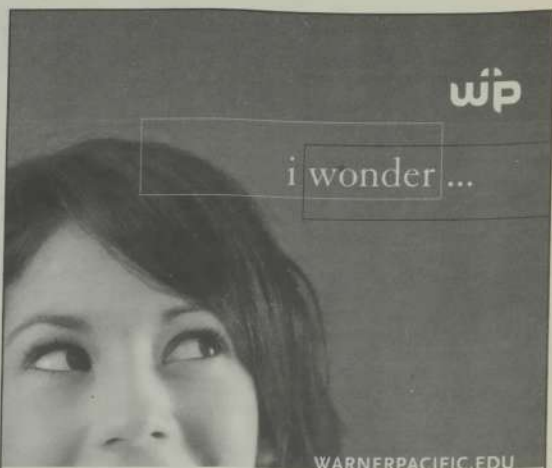
When asked why he picked Ornelas' piece for best in show, Green simply responded, "I liked it best."

The exhibit will be displayed in the Alexander Gallery in the Niemeyer Center until June 2.

All photos by Hillary Cole Clackamas Print



Above: Art show judge George Green speaks to contestants about his picks for winners. Left: Students Domingo Chulula (right) and Abigail Stewart look at student artwork in Niemeyer.



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