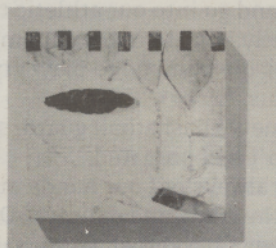
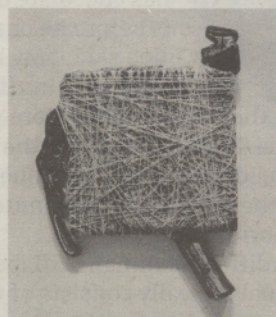
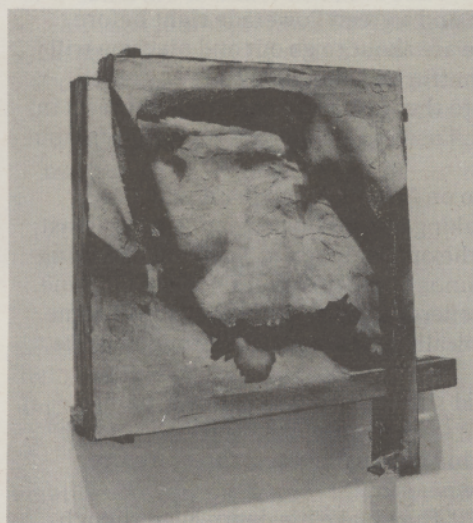


Artist brings beautiful debris to CCC

ART EXHIBIT AT NIEMEYER CENTER GIVES NEW MEANING TO RECYCLING

STORY BY ANDREW GRIFFIN
STAFF WRITER



For roughly 30 years, Tom O'Day has been destroying art — both his own and the art of others. Why? To make new art of course.

A new art exhibit is open on the Oregon City campus. O'Day, a Washington artist and teacher presents "this is from that," an exhibition featuring mixed media pieces including paintings, projections and most interestingly, multiple different pieces of destroyed or distressed artwork.

"I started this series years ago back in 1988 when I first buried some work," O'Day said. "I dug that up 20 years later. I've also done different types of disposals where I've burned stuff, flambéed stuff, blown stuff up, drowned stuff... with each piece there's an activity."

In this exhibit, O'Day is taking the product of some of these "activities" and putting them up to be viewed in a new light, such as a waterlogged piece of driftwood and metal, or a mural made of pieces of other shredded artworks. Alongside these are many intact works of art, including photographs and paintings that O'Day and other artists have worked on over the years. All of this begs the question: Where does O'Day get all this art?

"Around 2004 and 2005, I solicited people to bring me work they didn't want anymore," O'Day said. "When artists start, they have a problem with storage because they start making a lot of stuff. Unless you're

doing work on the internet, you run out of room. So artists have different ways of taking care of that. They either find more storage or they do something to it just like I'm doing something to it. Even Rembrandt did it."

All of this comes together under the unifying theme of what artwork goes through in its lifetime, from its creation, to being shown, being stored away and eventually destroyed. By presenting these destroyed artworks, O'Day is giving artwork that otherwise never would have been seen by the public a new meaning by allowing it to be seen again in an entirely new way.

The centerpiece of the exhibit includes a projector that hangs in the middle of the room. When the projector is up and running, an image O'Day says is "an art historical reference that speaks to the idea of change and also the influence of everyday life," can be seen.

Due to an unfortunate skiing accident, O'Day cannot participate in the installation of the exhibit as planned, so his friend and CCC instructor Dave Andersen has been organizing the exhibit in his absence.

The exhibit is located in the Oregon City campus' Niemeyer Center and will be available for viewing until Feb. 7.

Photos by Jordy Villagomez