



View from My Apartment by Brooke Borcharding

arts shorts

Impressions of the Ordinary

A series of paintings hangs in two straight rows in the main hallway of the WOW Hall. When you're running to that concert you've been waiting weeks to see, the art is easy to overlook. But catch a glimpse of one hanging to the left of the snack stand and you may immediately recognize the subject. Recent UO graduate Brooke Borcharding is showing a series of oil paintings that illuminate seemingly ordinary spaces in and around the Eugene area. From the familiar landscape around the pedestrian bridge over the Willamette River to the PeaceHealth building along 13th Avenue, Borcharding's body of work is uniquely Eugene. It's fitting that her paintings have been featured in such Eugene mainstays as Café Roma, Sweet Life Patisserie and now WOW Hall.

Twelve of the 16 paintings hanging in WOW Hall's corridor focus on the view from Borcharding's apartment window. It's not a particularly spectacular half-block of Eugene, but it's the progression of the paintings that draws you in. Borcharding takes an impressionistic approach to interpreting spaces and highlights different aspects of the same space each time she paints. She uses small brush strokes on the areas she wants to emphasize, bringing them into focus, while widening the strokes in the areas she wants to blur.

Painting the same space in different weather conditions and lighting situations allows Borcharding to play with focus and color. One painting focuses on a particular building lit up by a warm gold hue, while the painting right next to it blurs that building in a haze of grey and focuses on the house across the street.

It may be that you've stared blankly at these places every day on your way to work and not thought twice. But a walk through Borcharding's WOW Hall exhibit will put them in a new light.

Borcharding's exhibit can be seen any time during WOW Hall's summer office hours, 3 to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, through June 30; n/c.

— Natalie Horner

Saturday Market

At Practical Rabbit you'll find tees, dresses, leggings and flirty skirts in bright colors featuring Alley Valkyrie's bold graphics. Birds are a favorite motif - she's been "putting a bird on it" since 2005.

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