

Creative Streak



Professor Kathrena Halsinger discusses her work with a student at the opening of the Art Faculty Biennial.

Clark art faculty spend their time at the college fostering and honing their students' creative skills. But what about their own creative work? At the Art Faculty Biennial in Archer Gallery, running through February 8, everyone has a chance to see what the college's faculty produce when they're not busy teaching.



Wind and Drive and *SIX6JEWELS*, archival prints by art instructor Mariana Tres.

The wide range of their creativity was on display during the show's opening reception on January 14, as faculty, students, and other visitors gazed at works that ranged from painting to ceramics to multimedia installations.

"I think it's a really diverse show, but everything still fits very well together," said art professor Kathrena Halsinger as she stood in front of her own contribution, a linked collection of digital prints. It hung between sculpture instructor Beth Heron's installation of aluminum and bright-blue glass and Marina Tres' striking, large-format prints of old watch gears.



All Fall Down, multi-channel video by art professor Senseney Stokes.

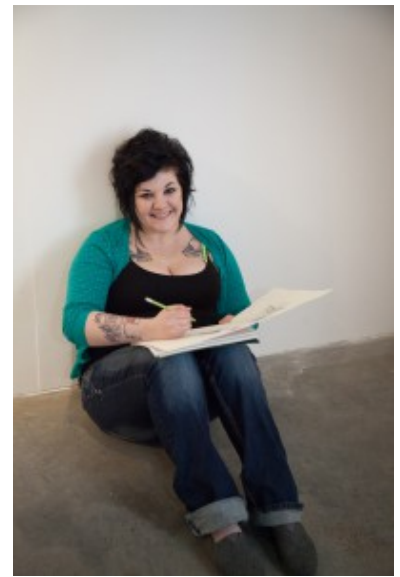
Many visitors paused at length before Professor Senseney Stokes' *All Fall Down*, in which a stack of vintage black-and-white televisions showed linked video footage of gravel falling through a tube that seemed to travel from one screen to the next. Stokes, who is on sabbatical to learn gallery management in preparation for becoming Archer Gallery's new director, said that she collected many of the old televisions years ago from thrift stores or just off the side of the road, but that these days they're almost impossible to find. "I had to get the rest off of eBay," she said with a wry smile.



Left to right, art faculty members Gabriel Parque, Carson Legree, Lisa Conway, Senseney Stokes, Grant Hottle, and Kathrena Halsinger.

Art professor emeritus Carson Legree, who is currently serving as Archer Gallery's director this academic year, said that the Art Faculty Biennial is different from other shows that the gallery hosts, which often feature works by prominent artists in the region and the country. "This show really is about the campus, and about the students, and about faculty members' relationships with each other and with their students," she explained. "I think it's interesting for students, because they see we're all still working artists, we're all still

trying new things.”



Kelsey Lavin sketches her professor's work during the Art Faculty Biennial.

Student Kelsey Lavin confirmed Legree's statement. "It's inspiring to see more than one type of art, to see all the different styles," she said, pausing for a moment in her sketches of Professor Lisa Conway's ceramic flowers to point to instructor Ben Killen Rosenberg's watercolors on a free-standing wall nearby. "I have always respected the faculty here, and this [show] just adds to that."

Lavin, 23, has taken two art classes at Clark, and hopes to take more before her anticipated graduation in 2015. A first-generation college student, she is considering entering the college's Associate of Fine Art degree program, with the end goal of becoming an art teacher and working artist herself.

Legree said that she hoped that everyone at the college—students, faculty, and staff—would visit the show. "It gives the rest of the college a chance to see our work," she said. "We really do have a very strong and vibrant

department.”

To see more images from the show visit our Flickr page.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Art that Speaks Volumes



“Abu Ghraib” sculpture by Rex Silvernail

Clark College’s Art Selection Committee recently honored the legacies of two local artists by placing their work in Cannell Library.

In fall 2012, friends of the late Rex Silvernail approached Clark College about receiving one or more of his artworks.

Silvernail, an accomplished sculptor, had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and wanted to ensure that his art would be kept available to the public after his death. Clark is among many institutions that stepped forward to house his work; others include the Portland Art Museum, Hallie Ford Museum, Maryhill Museum, Fort Vancouver Historic Reserve, and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library.

Silvernail was born in Tacoma, Wash. He earned his MFA from Northern Illinois University and later received a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the Kitanmax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art—the first non-Native person to do so—where he learned traditional methods for manipulating wood. He became known for an artistic style that blended contemporary Western techniques with ancient traditions of craftsmanship, creating works that emphasized his interest in environmentalism and world peace.



“Shilo” wood and paper sculpture by Rex Silvernail

Silvernail died in April 2013. By then the Art Selection Committee had already begun the process of accepting and placing two of his works: *Shilo* and *Abu Ghraib*. The former is

a joyous piece made in honor of Silvernail's granddaughter; the latter has been called "one of his strongest anti-war statements." Together, they provide a cogent summary of Silvernail's breadth of subject matter as an artist.

"We chose to place the pieces where they would have maximum visual impact and viewing accessibility," said Art Selection Committee member and art professor Lisa Conway. "We wanted a space that would enhance the dimensional qualities of these unique pieces, and allow for them to be really set apart from, yet showcased within, their surroundings. After months of considering various sites across our campuses, the committee chose the library location. Cannell Library continues to be a great place to view art on campus."

The third piece placed in Cannell is a large bronze casting plaque known as "The Lincoln Medallion." It depicts a young Abraham Lincoln sitting beneath a tree, reading a book, with the inscription "I will study to prepare myself and maybe someday my chance will come." It was made by George B. Clausen, the father of recently retired business technology professor John Clausen. The younger Clausen, together with his sister, Grace Sorensen, donated the piece to the college in memory of their parents.



Bronze casting plaque of Abraham Lincoln by George B. Clausen, donated by retired business technology

professor John Clausen and
his sister, Grace Sorensen

George Clausen was, like Lincoln, a self-taught man. He quit high school in order to support his family when his own father became ill, teaching himself the trade of architectural drafting. He also taught himself bronze casting; his works were housed in, among other places, the Oregon State Capitol and the Vista House. In 1937, when he created the mold for the Lincoln Medallion, he was working at the Portland Art Museum.

John Clausen and his sister wanted their father's medallion to be placed at Clark College—and specifically in Cannell—because of its theme of education and reading.

These three pieces are just the most recent to be sited by the Art Selection Committee, which is responsible for selecting art through the Washington State Arts Commission Art in Public Places Program. This program facilitates the acquisition, placement, and stewardship of artwork in state-funded building projects. One-half of one percent for art funds is generated by new construction projects in state agencies, community colleges, universities, and public schools. Local committees representing project sites make all final artwork selection decisions.

In addition, the Art Selection Committee is responsible for acceptance and location of donated art objects, markers and monuments (other than instruction/gallery items) and the purchase and location of art objects acquired through means other than the Art in Public Places Program. The committee monitors and makes decisions regarding the maintenance and care of all college art objects.

Currently, the college's art collection includes almost 300 artworks in media as varied as metal sculpture, painting, line drawing, and textiles.

Phoenix Flies High



The staff of the 2013 *Phoenix* posing during the journal's unveiling in spring. Art professor Kathrena Halsinger, *far right*, is their advisor.

Congratulations to the staff of *Phoenix*. Clark's literary and art journal just won third place in the Western-Pacific division of the Community College Humanities Association's 2013 Literary Magazine Competition.

"I think the quality of *Phoenix* is a reflection of the quality of the strong arts program that the college, and the greater community, continue to support," says art professor and *Phoenix* advisor Kathrena Halsinger. "The arts are the stuff of life and therefore are relevant to all. We really work hard to

be inclusive and get people across campus to be involved. We've also been fortunate to be supported by our departments and the ASCC to keep the program strong."

Thirty Years of Beauty



"The World Filled Up" by Stephen Hayes

Clark art instructor Stephen Hayes is having a 30-year retrospective at Lewis & Clark College's Hoffman Gallery of Contemporary Art. The show opened September 10 and runs through December 15.

"I have admired Stephen's work since I met him more than 20 years ago, when I was the director of Maryhill Museum and we had a small exhibition of Stephen's work," says Hoffman Gallery director and curator Linda Tesner. "Since then I've made sure to follow his career. He is a fantastic painter and his work has only become more and more interesting. I love that he is able to capture the spirit of place without making a slavish likeness; it is as if he is able to evoke the landscape as much as paint it."

"Stephen is the best kind of instructor at Clark, with tons of

real-world experience, fabulous skills, and the passion to share it all with his students,” says Clark art department chair Lisa Conway. “Stephen is a consummate professional, and a virtual icon among West Coast painters. The Hoffman Gallery at Lewis & Clark is a prestigious institution, and it is heartening to see a great artist get this level of respect and recognition.”

Hayes began teaching at Clark about two years ago after he gave a presentation as part of the Archer Gallery’s Clark Art Talks. Members of the Art Department faculty approached him after his lecture to ask if he would be interested in teaching at the college. Hayes says that working with Clark students in classes like Drawing I and Two-Dimensional Design helps him examine his own artistic process, as well as that of his students.



Stephen Hayes in a self-portrait

“Teaching always keeps you reminded that you are in a process yourself,” he says. “When you have to explain something to someone who has no idea what you’re talking about, that really forces you to establish clarity for yourself. That in turn has an impact when you enter the studio: You have more clarity.”

Hayes sounds humbled by having a gallery focus on his entire body of work. "It's pretty awesome, obviously," he says. "One doesn't get this opportunity very often. ... It's fantastic to be able to look back and to see both the continuity and the changes in direction along the years."

Hayes says he doesn't plan to tell his students about the show. "There are posters around, so they may well find out about it," he says. "But I'm not making them take a special field trip or anything."

Images courtesy of the Hoffman Gallery

Shantell Martin Draws a Crowd



Shantell Martin's digital drawing performance with Clark College jazz musicians Max Wike, David Floratos and James Powers in the Archer Gallery.

Visual artist Shantell Martin's free-form drawings and live-animation performances have been featured in such vaunted venues as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the *New York Times*, the enormous screens at Shibuya and Harajuku crossings in Tokyo—and, for more than a week, at Clark College.

Martin visited Clark as part of the college's Artist Residency program, which hosts an artist-in-residence once a year as part of the larger Clark Art Talks program. She is probably the most prominent artist yet to participate in the residency.

"We read about her in the *New York Times* and contacted her, even though we didn't think she would do an artist's residency at Clark College," said art professor Carson Legree. "Her visit was amazing."

During her residency from April 26 to May 7, Martin visited

numerous classes including Drawing, 2-D Design, 3-D Design, Graphic Design Exploration, Watercolor, Photography, Ceramics, and Creativity and Concept. She also gave a slideshow lecture as part of the Clark Art Talks series on May 7 and provided digital animation during a performance with three Clark jazz students in Archer Gallery on May 8. She created large-scale drawings that hung in the lobby of Foster Arts Center during much of her stay.

“Her classroom visits were filled with personal autobiography and a celebration of individuality,” said art professor Senseny Stokes. “She worked with hundreds of our students, who were inspired by her work and personal history—and charmed by her approachable, laid-back manor.”



Clark College artist-in-residence Shantell Martin displays her work in the Frost Arts lobby.

Martin, who has said in interviews that much of her artistic perspective is informed by growing up as the only interracial child in her otherwise white family in London, has made a name for herself with her playful line drawings that reflect a celebration of independence. She also frequently provides live animation or light shows to accompany music in settings ranging from museums to the mega-clubs of Japan and Russia. She has been featured on CNN, *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, and the television show *Gossip Girl*. Martin has collaborated with

celebrity photographers and brands alike; her notable work includes a project with celebrity photographer Nigel Barker, where she created digital sets for a 10-page *Tatler Asia* editorial with supermodel Christina Garcia. In February 2012, she was one of four artists commissioned by Nike iD to make a piece of work and a limited-edition shoe to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Nike Cortez.

“We didn’t think there was much of a chance that an artist with this much commercial success or international acclaim would do a residency here at Clark College, but we were honored and thrilled when she accepted our invitation,” said Stokes, who called Martins’ collaboration with the jazz students “one of the coolest things that ever happened at Clark College.”

“I’ve had a really nice time coming in every day, just drawing and coming into classes, meeting students and teachers,” said Martin in a video interview. “It’s kind of nice to come in and do the drawing and the stuff that I’m comfortable with, but also have the chance to experiment alongside young students here.”

Clark Art Talks is an ASCC-sponsored program that includes an evening lecture series, classroom workshops, and the annual Artist Residency. Organized by the Art Department, it is now completing its fourth year at the college and its second year as an official ASCC program.

See photos from Shantell Martin’s stay at Clark.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley