

Diversity is on display at CF

College's 2015 Faculty Exhibition showcases many colors, shapes and styles

By Marian Rizzo
Correspondent

The College of Central Florida's biennial faculty art show is creating a different scene at the Webber Center this year with digital, two-dimension and three-dimension art.

The exhibit has more than 60 items on display, said Webber Gallery coordinator Griselle E. "Gi Gi" Gonzalez-Vazquez.

"It shows the diversity of the art culture and art environment," she said. "It is very colorful, traditional artwork, some black-and-white, and the papier-mâché is colorful and playful, but on a more professional level."

Gonzalez-Vazquez said the college's faculty artists are expected to attend the opening reception on Jan. 24.

"A lot of people like to talk to the artists and get their personal insight," she said.

Michele Wirt, professor of the art department, said the college has been organizing faculty shows for about 30 years.

"It's a nice way to showcase what the faculty [members] are doing," Wirt said. "They're not just teaching. It gives us a chance for our students to see who we are as a person as well as an artist and professor. And it gives the public a chance to see that

CF offers a quality education, including the arts. I think the word is 'diversity.' The range of the types of work makes it a nice, well-rounded show."

Wirt is displaying five pastel drawings. The colorful park scene and inviting bistro, for example, are places she visited during a trip to Chicago.

"I've been working on those pastel drawings for two years," Wirt said. "Each piece underwent many transformations. I've experimented with a lot of mediums, but I just love the immediacy of the pastels. You have one tool. You don't have to change brushes. I felt like I could be more versatile and say more things with it."

Wirt, a Citrus campus professor who also teaches humanities, said the "go-to guy" at the Ocala campus is Tyrus Clutter, assistant professor of the art department.

For the faculty show, Clutter hung printmaking images produced on different materials, such as christening gowns and the pages from old hymn books and Bible texts.

A framed antique linen napkin overlaid with three transparent scarves served as the material for a lithographed image of Clutter's self-portrait, with each layer creating a darker image.

2015 CF Faculty Exhibition

When: Through Feb. 13. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Where: Webber Gallery, College of Central Florida, 3001 SW College Road, Ocala

Admission: Free
Info: 854-2322, ext. 1664

Opening reception: 5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 24, in the gallery

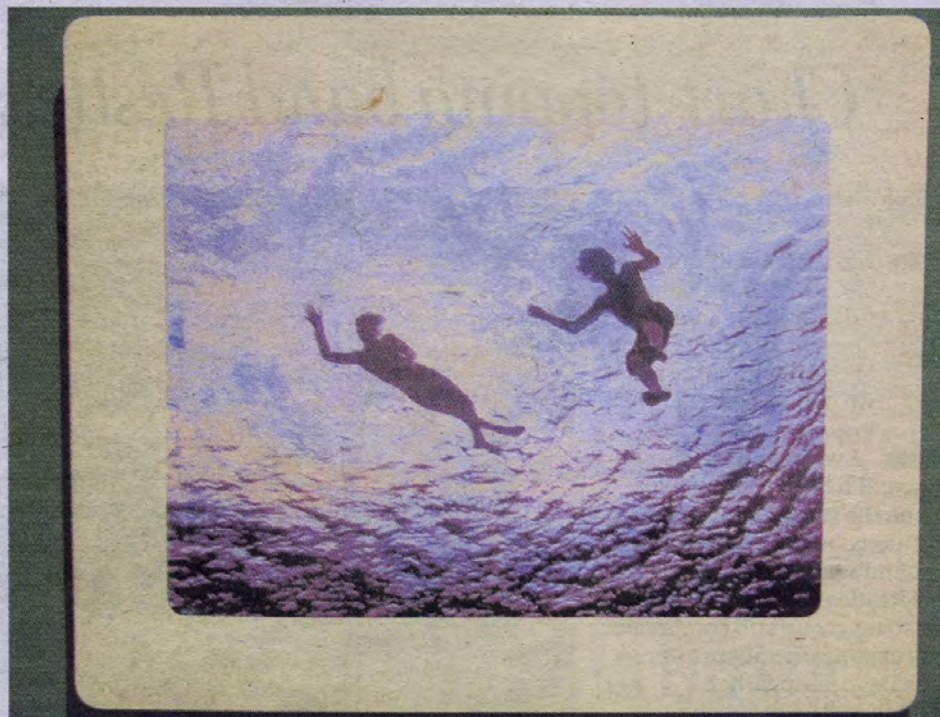
Along with teaching basic art, Clutter also teaches art history, often combining the two.

And he challenges his students with printmaking techniques that open up new avenues of expression.

"My students can learn how to use interesting materials," Clutter said. "They can see there are other ways to use the same materials. What interests them in my work is using this text-based theme. It definitely takes time and experimentation."

Other participants include Charlie Cummings, an adjunct professor who teaches ceramics and 3-D digital art. His display of lightweight plastic ceramics was done with a 3-D printer. It's the only display visitors are allowed to handle.

James Budd Dees, also an adjunct professor, has taken center stage with two groupings of papier-mâché sculptures in pastel colors. One piece, titled



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Clockwise from top: "Alexander Springs Swimmers" by Charlie Cummings; "Palimpsest Self Portrait" by Tyrus Clutter; and "Many Acceptable Forms" by James Budd Dees. All are on display at the Webber Gallery.

"Rolled and Never Unrolled," depicts a newspaper that has never been read.

Dees said he starts each sculpture with papier-mâché and a Styrofoam form, then he allows the art to

create itself.

"This," Dees said picking up a triangular piece last week, "started as a line and it broke in two spots, so I said, 'I guess it's going to be a triangle.'"

"Now it's called 'Infinity.'"

It's one of my favorites," he added. "Each sculpture is sort of something and sort of not that thing. That's the significance of abstract art. I start with an idea, and it definitely takes its own shape."