

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gahlberg Gallery showcases student master works

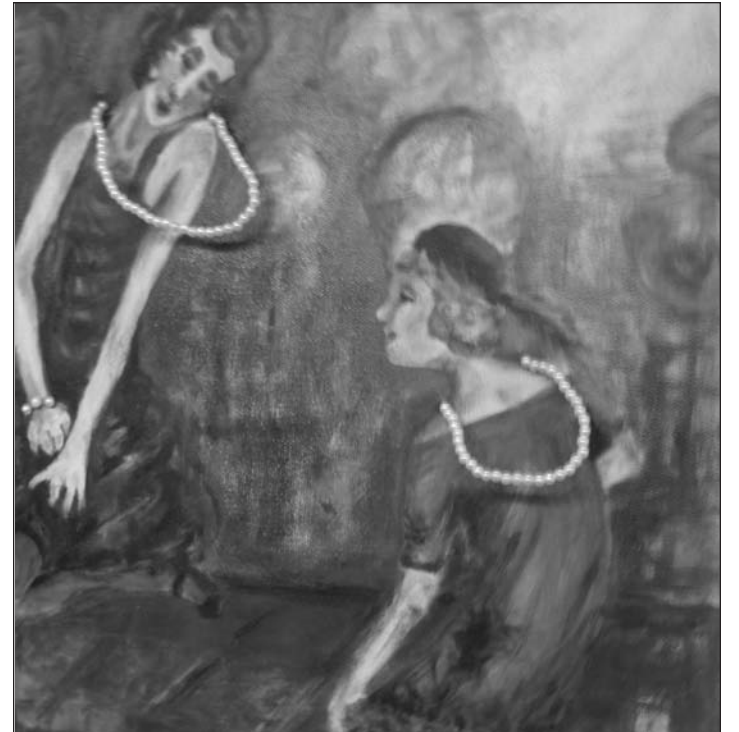


"Local 1" on oil canvas by David Simcik

By Steve Bert
A&E Editor

To the left a galleon tears through a monograph, churning up pages in its wake. Up ahead, classical placidity is depicted through an intricate graphite sketch. This is the entrance of the Gahlberg Gallery, now a sanctuary for student masterpieces. Of over 300 pieces in contention, 26 qualified for the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit open through May 16.

One of the exhibit's diadems, "Under the El," is the brainchild of art major Katherine Gassmann, winner of the DuPage County Art League Award. The watercolor composition juxtaposes an urban landscape with an enigmatic figure in its foreground. Plucked from a picture book, Gassmann chose her figure on impulse. "When I saw it, I put it together in my mind and it just looked so perfect. So I did a little collaging," Gassmann said. "You can see in his face that he's got a lot going on in his mind and his life, but you don't notice it. Like in the city it's busy. There's so much going on that you don't really notice the individual's struggle."



"That Dance is an Antique" on oil canvas by Katie Lavin

Gassmann, herself, is no stranger to struggle. After high school she attended The Illinois Institute of Art and dropped out after two quarters. "When I came back, to COD, I didn't plan on being an art major, but after I took one course I kind of fell back into it. When I'm in an art class, I seem to be able to do better than I think I can do... I get into it," Gassmann said.

Another artist showcased at the gallery, Nicholas Balazs, is into a whole different aspect of art: the business side. He's trying to launch an art empire. Balazs' oil painting, "the resurrection of Barbara Holfer" has already sold for \$3,500. It is a reworking of a sketch done by Albrecht Dürer. "This one painting kind of just sparked everything for me. Now I'm working on a Caravaggio reproduction that will be done for next year. That's selling for \$10,000, luckily," Balazs said.

From oil painting to photography, pencil sketches to sculpture, the montage of compositions are far ranging. The artists are just as diverse as their subject matter. Carlos Vargas 26-year-old art student was born and raised in Guatemala. It was his mother's watercolor painting that captivated him. "Everything she was doing, I was just watching her. I just got into it," Vargas said. His brilliance, however, flows not through watercolor, but through pencil. Allied with detail, Vargas' untitled Grecian sketch harbors the gravitas of his elaborate strokes.

The Annual Juried Art Exhibit opens its doors from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday; and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It was juried by Chicago writer and critic Jason Foubberg. Twenty-two students and a total of 26 works were featured in the exhibit.

Entertaining the idea of Earth Day

By Steve Bert
A&E Editor

When aiming for impact sometimes planting an idea is the best seed for environmental fruition. That's why Linda Elaine, 3D Faculty Fellow, cultivated a genre of Earth Day rooted in entertainment. "There are visual learners, there are audio learners... This Earth Day should be about reaching to as many students as possible," Elaine said.

Catering to the musically minded students, the local band, Three In Counting, launched into a rock set in the SRC lower walkway. They played for over an hour and didn't hesitate to throw in a plug for Earth Day. "Plant a tree. Recycle," lead vocalist Mike Hayes shouted into the mic after he finished up a song.

Nick Wong, a student who was reveling in the music, commented on how music amplified Earth Day for him as a student. "At high

school [Earth Day] was just another day of school but here it's a big deal. There's music and events going on, like a mini-fair," Wong said.

Contrasting the vivacious interplay of instruments, a mellow literary session featuring the works of faculty, students and established poets unfolded in the MAC student lounge. One piece, "Steady & Trembling," composed by faculty member Tom Montgomery-Fate, dealt with the narrator's waves of contemplation as a goldfinch crosses death's threshold. Literary pieces ranged from orison to wildlife exposé, from thoughts on the beach to the sentient concept of lunar burn.

see 'Earth Day' page 19



Photo by Amanda Kellermann

Lead Guitarist Mike Hayes of Three In Counting strums his guitar for Earth Day.

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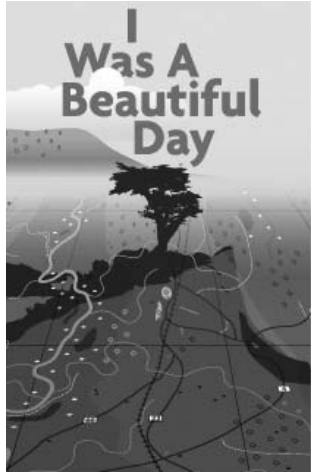
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I WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY

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Saturday, May 2, 8 p.m., \$44/\$34 COD students



Ballet Hispanico

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This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

HOT TIX

Attention C.O.D. Students

Bring your student ID to the MAC ticket office between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. the Friday before the event to receive half-price tickets. Subject to availability.

the **MAC** McANINCH ARTS CENTER AT COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

smART dates

Today24

New Philharmonic

Concertmaster of the **Lyric Opera of Chicago**, Robert Hanford, links up with **New Philharmonic** to perform Max Bruch's signature work, based on beloved Scottish folk melodies. New Philharmonic's Maestro, Kirk Muspratt includes one of his famous "Kirk's Klassical Boot Kamps" as a preview to Bela Bartok's most renowned work inspired by Hungarian Folk Music.

8 p.m. tonight at the MAC. \$35 adult/33 senior/25 student and youth

Saturday25

New Philharmonic. 8 p.m. at the MAC (see above)

Sunday26

"The Sacred Concerts"

The **DuPage Chorale** houses singers from 28 different communities in the west suburbs. Meshing with the **Arts Center Jazz Ensemble**, the collective will unearth Duke Ellington's rarely performed "Sacred Concerts." Blues, jazz, spirituals, gospel, classical, choral music and dance elements are integrated.

April 26, 7:30 p.m. at the MAC. \$16 adult/ \$14 senior/ \$6 student and youth

Tuesday28

Chamber Orchestra, Dance Troupe and the **Lyric Opera Orchestra's Ann Palen** merge for the annual showcase of fine arts offerings. The concert features Beethoven's "Romance in F major for violin," "Orchestra, Op. 50," and Felix Mendelsson's "Sinfonia No. 8 in D Major."

April 28, 7:30 p.m. at the MAC. Free admission

Wednesday29

Celebrate National Poetry month with

Prairie Light Review's poetry reading. Step up to the mic and receive a free gift or simply take-in the words of other students, faculty and community members.

3-5 p.m. in the COD Bookstore, SRC 1600.

Writers Read Series Poetry Reading: An Evening with Curtis Crisler

The Creative Writing Committee hosts a poetry reading with **Curtis Crisler**, author of "Tough Boy Sonatas" and 2008 Keyhole Chapbook Award winner for *Spill*.

April 29, 7-8:30pm SRC 1450

Thursday30

Guitar Ensemble:

Directed by Steve Ramsdell

April 30, 2:30 p.m. at the MAC. Free admission

Concert Choir/Chamber singers: Directed by Lee Kesselman

April 30, 7:30 p.m. at the MAC. \$4

"**I Was A Beautiful Day**" Preview. Directed by **Amelia Barrett**, written by **Iain MacLeod**

Dan is a veteran of the first Gulf War who admits himself into a psychiatric hospital after his inability to cope with "shellshock." He becomes friends with Lube, an intensely frustrating yet highly amusing fellow full of ideas of escape. One day Dan and Lube learn of an event that will change their lives and it does.

Special full-length preview: April 30, 8 p.m. at the MAC. \$25 adult/23 senior. Show runs May 1 to May 24 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m.

Friday01

"**I was a Beautiful Day**" 8 p.m. at the MAC. \$33 adult/\$31 senior (see above)



Photo by Steve Bert

Zack Balogh welcomes the spring with some fresh jamming on the electric guitar outside the Oasis Lounge.

'Earth Day' from page 17

After the readings, Stephen DeFalco, student in psychology and member of forensics, presented a prototype of the *Fab Tree Hab*. The biotic abode is 100 percent living and has a tendency to shape-shift.

Despite the pull of poetry, music, and futuristic dwellings, Earth Day wasn't for everyone. "I think setting one day aside for being concerned about something justifies we as a people ignoring it the rest of the time," Sean Clark student in art said. Clark elaborated further, "Earth Day is like Christmas. It's an arbitrary one day a year where we have to be nice to everyone else. It justifies us not being that way the rest of the time."

Clark's criticism of Earth Day cemented one of the key issues David Connell a student and 3D Visionary Force Member spoke about at the MAC student lounge. "We shouldn't be inspired in times of crisis only. There should be some sort of pre-emptive planning," Connell said. According to Connell, the U.S. houses four percent of the world's population and generates 20 percent of the world's industrial emissions. An extra dose of environmental creativity may be exactly what's needed.

"I'd like to see every club, as part of its mission, take steps to become better stewards of the earth," said Cynthia Johnson, Community Development Specialist for 3D. "It's just that important. The Earth is where our home is," Johnson said.

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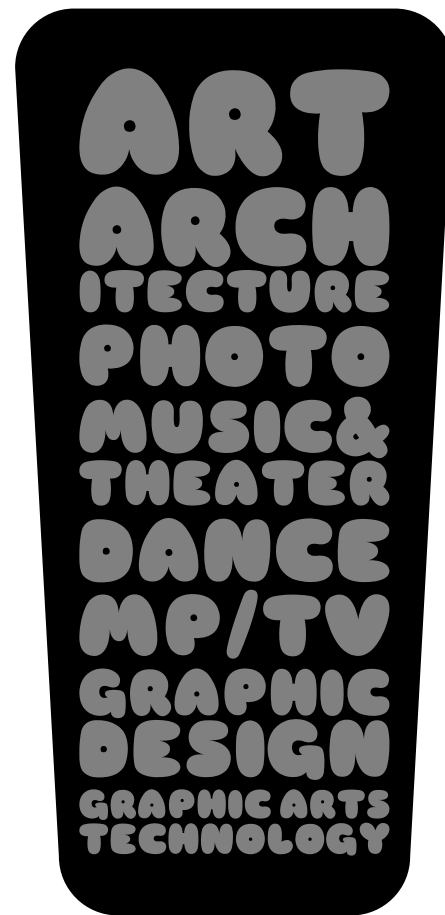
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 College of DuPage

Starving Artist

Ted DeJong: Jewelry & Metals

How would you describe your art?

Re-Creations. I take things from their creation and re-create them in silver. I wanted to do something different than what other people do.

Where do you find inspiration?

In my mind when I'm working around the yard. A lot of times when I mow the lawn I think of stuff I ought to be doing.

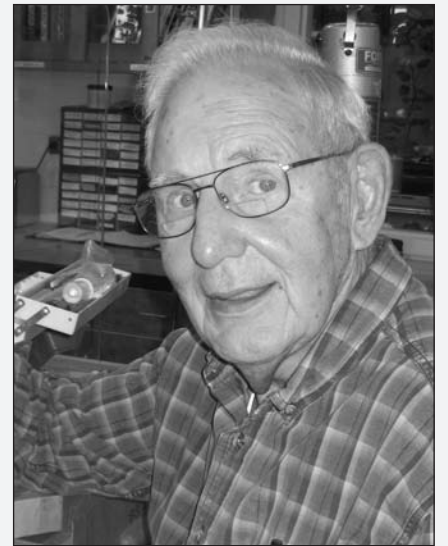
What do you love about your art?

Enjoying the natural world and trying to make other people enjoy it, and when they wear or use what I make.

How did you get your start?

I took an interest in stones and I taught myself. I subscribed to a rock and gem magazine and started making opals.

Artists you admire?



Escher. He's a Dutch artist that does great stuff.

Plans after COD?

I'm trying to work up a website. It'll be a while yet.

What are some of your other hobbies?

I do a lot of reading. Last year I read about 30,000 pages. When you turn 83 you've got to do something with your time.

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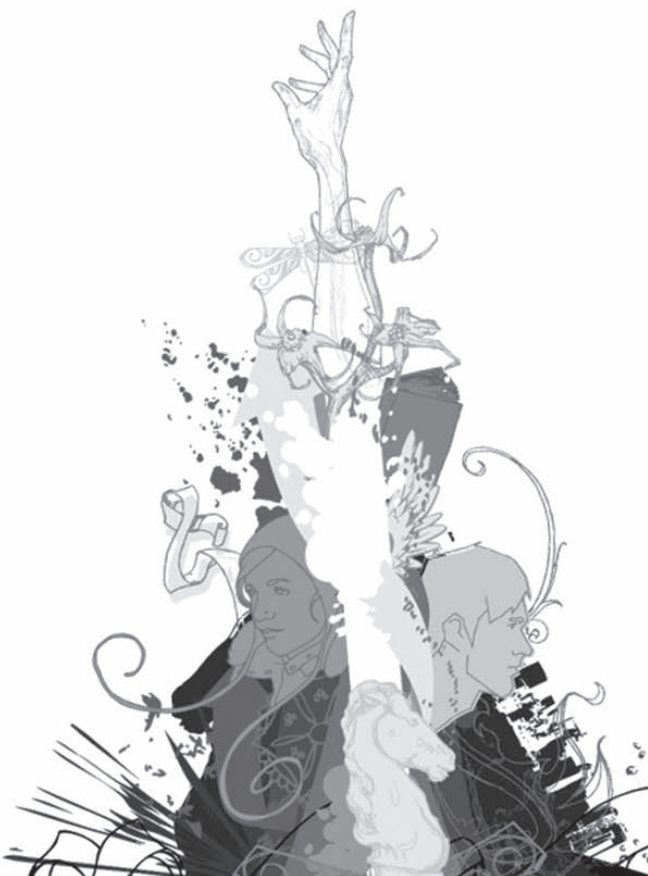
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