

Vavra Creations

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Film, curlers, zippers, plastic tubes, and other "stuff" are given new purpose in Rudy Vavra's floor collage, which opened December 6, in Rudder Exhibit Hall.

Vavra graduated from Texas A&M last year in environmental design and now lectures a basic design class. He's a diverse artist, painting with oils and water colors, doing weaving, small collages, some three dimensional work, and he occasionally works with fiber. He did his first floor collage last year, which like this one, was sponsored by MSC Arts Committee. Each art form he uses is unique from the others.

Vavra starts with a base of white paper, using it for its reflective quality, and then layers his material on top of it. He seems to choose things for their color, texture or geometric quality.

"When I take materials, they have qualities that are unique to them," Vavra says. "I try to let the materials do what they want to do."

"I do think my things have geometry to them. I don't know why. I just try to let myself do. I try not to think too much about it. So if there's a diversity in all those things, maybe that's how it happens."

He started working on the collage at 8:30 Wednesday morning, saying it would take him 15-18 hours to complete. He doesn't design his work ahead of time; he works spontaneously with the material he has.

"The collage is simply done by bringing the materials up here and doing it," he says. "The whole thing just sort of happens. It's like drawing or painting for me."

"I just walk over to the pile and pick up something and do it. Once I put something down, I just leave it there and don't move it."

The materials Vavra uses have not been bought for the project, but have been saved by him over a period of time. He says they're the kind of materials one stumbles upon.

Vavra wants his work to appeal to everyone, not just to an esoteric few.

"I would never have just artists appreciate my work," he says. "I'd rather have a variety of people enjoying it, experiencing it."

"There's a lot of different people in this world. There's a lot of different levels to appreciate a lot of different things."

Vavra tries to teach his students more than just the mechanics of design.

"I try to teach my students to be themselves, to listen, to think, to think creatively, to learn how to work with people," he said.

"Maybe, hopefully, their eyes get bigger, they see more than before they took my class. Maybe. And not be afraid to be creative."

"You can be a thinker, be intelligent, but if you're not creative, than your ideas won't be able to be implemented."

Rudy Vavra (bottom) works on his second collage creation for the Rudder Exhibit Hall. His work is sponsored by the MSC Arts Committee. The collage (left) will be on display through finals week.

