

Nick Rodnicki/THE BATTALION

The art collection "Self Possessed" is currently on display at J. Wayne Stark Art Gallery.

Art At A & M

'Possessed' gives artists chance to show self-portraits

By Amy Collier
THE BATTALION

The J. Wayne Stark University Center Gallery is presenting selections from the Texas Fine Arts Association's "Self Possessed" collection of self-portraits until April 2.

The display contains paintings, sculptures, photography and silkscreens by 23 artists, including four from Texas.

Catherine Hastedt, registrar and curator of the Stark gallery, selected the exhibit for the gallery because of the unique theme of the portraits.

"I like to bring as wide of a variety as possible into this gallery," Hastedt said. "Self-portraits are in the non-traditional sense and I thought it would be neat to make people aware of what's going on out there right now."

Hastedt said the works in the display are all by successful artists selected by Lynn Zelevansky of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The word "self-portrait" may be a misleading term to call the works, Hastedt said. Instead of just painting pictures of themselves, the artists show individuality and cover various topics including gender, racial stereotypes, the body and self-perception.

"It is not self-portraits in the traditional sense," Hastedt said. "It's more them getting across how they perceive themselves or how they think others perceive them."

John Gallegos, an artist from Santa Fe, has his self-portrait in the gallery. His work

is comprised of nine separate paintings, four of which are in the gallery. Each of the paintings are either of a face or other objects, such as a giant fly.

"I empower objects through my painting," Gallegos said. "The objects that are empowered along with my self-portrait combine to create a magic realism."

Gallegos leaves his paintings open to interpretations by viewers.

"I do not describe a singular theme but instead ask myself, as well as the viewer, to create their own dialogue with the images," Gallegos said. "I welcome the possibilities of my art having a humorous and psychological duality."

Even humorous parodies are on display at the exhibit.

Kay Klotzback, an artist from New Jersey, has a painting on display titled "Kahlo on My Mind" which is a parody of famous artists Frieda Kahlo and Vincent Van Gogh. Klotzback poked fun of the artists by painting herself without an ear and being pierced by arrows.

"My current body of work reflects my interest and/or skepticism as it applies to the making of art, art history, myths, hype and stereotypes," Klotzback said. "Must an artist cut off his ear or play the victim to be considered a 'serious artist?'"

Hastedt said because of the unique style of the exhibit, viewers should come with an open mind.

"It's a broadening of what they consider to be art," Hastedt said. "They shouldn't just expect to see pictures of bluebonnets."

Galleries add artistic touch to campus

By Keryl Cryer
THE BATTALION

When most students walk through the Memorial Student Center, they often pass by one of the three art galleries within its walls.

However, they often do not realize the wealth of cultural experience provided by the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries, the J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries and the MSC Visual Arts Gallery.

The MSC Forsyth Center Galleries, which is the oldest of the three, was opened in February 1989 in the area that once housed the Association of Former Students.

Tim Novak, curator of the Forsyth, said the gallery's primary collection was a gift of former student Bill Runyon.

"We are endowed by a former student because he wanted art to be accessible to students here on campus," Novak said.

Amy Day, coordinator of marketing and gallery programs for the Forsyth and adviser to the MSC Visual Arts Committee, said that Runyon contributed many western and impressionist paintings as well as a world-renowned collection of glass art.

The Forsyth gallery has 30,000 to 35,000 visitors annually.

"I would say probably 60 to 70 percent of our visitors are from off-campus," Novak said. "People come from all over the country and from overseas, particularly to see the art glass collections."

Sharing MSC space with the Forsyth is the J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries, which features traveling exhibits as well as pieces from the University's permanent collection.

Registrar and curator Catherine Hastedt said the gallery's 10,000 square feet are divided into three large galleries.

Two of the galleries usually feature traveling exhibits that change every six to eight weeks. The other is used to feature the 9,000 pieces owned by the University, especially those related to history and other subjects related to the current academic climate.

"We are set up to showcase a wide variety of exhibits that compliment the educational mission of the University as well as to broaden cultural awareness on campus," Hastedt said.

One unique way that the

Stark gallery accomplishes this is through the docent program.

The program provides student volunteers with an opportunity to learn about the exhibits and gives tours to visitors.

Hastedt said many students involved in the program do not take art classes, but are still interested in learning about art.

Another way that many students get involved in art is by joining the MSC Visual Arts Committee, which sponsors the MSC Visual Arts Gallery on the second floor.

Scot Sanders, chairman for the arts committee, said the group targets the students and young people in the community who appreciate contemporary art.

Since there are few places in the area where the contemporary is showcased, many professional local artists as well as several small traveling exhibits are featured each semester in the gallery.

The committee tries to expose students to all aspects of art exhibition, including finding prospective exhibits, displaying the art, and meeting the artists when their exhibits are featured in the gallery.

Chris Connelly brings intense show to 3rd Floor tonight

By Amber Clark
THE BATTALION

Chris Connelly, formerly of Revolting Cocks and Ministry, will bring his brand of dark music to 3rd Floor Cantina tonight.

The Edinburgh, Scotland native began his musical career under the influence of punk rock and David Bowie. Upon discovering his talent to manipulate sound with limited instruments, he

formed his first band, Rigor Mortis. When Connelly was 14, the band gave way to Fini Tribe, a rock/dance group he played with for eight years.

Fini Tribe acquired a reputation as a bizarre, socially-ostracized group. They performed at high school functions, but Connelly said the band was determined to become something different.

While searching for any possible way to continue their obscure, unique sounds, Connelly took a Fini Tribe single to a London recording studio. There he crossed paths with Revolting Cocks and Ministry.

Connelly said he was invited to sing with Revolting Cocks, a band that he considered one of his favorites. He toured with Ministry, and spent several years performing with both groups.

Connelly said the screaming energy of the two groups opened a new window for his voice. Turning down the volume and concentrating on more

subdued messages of anguish, Connelly began his solo career in 1990, and last fall he released his third album, "Shipwreck."

Connelly said he tries to write honest and emotional pop songs. The lyrics aren't necessarily sad, Connelly said, but he uses his subconscious and conscious mind to develop a pure, literal emotional translation.

Connelly said he writes his music simultaneously with his lyrics to make every part of the song become one entity. The result is a style that Connelly said has drawn a dedicated group of listeners.

"The people who really hear this are the most supportive followers," Connelly said. "I try to make music that is challenging. You have to think about what I'm saying because this is music for the head. It can be flighty, but it really makes you think."

Life experiences are Connelly's biggest inspira-

tion, and he said he is heavily influenced by the local geography of places he visits while on tour. Connelly said the one place he finds the purest inspiration is inside his own mind.

"I spend a lot of time inside my head," Connelly said. "I like to think and get carried away."

Even when he is on tour, the majority of Connelly's spare time is spent developing his music.

"Music is my hobby," Connelly said. "Other than that, I don't do any super outrageous things." Connelly said his solo career is the only priority in his future. He said he has a fantastic band and they all plan to continue walking down the same unique musical road.

His dark but flighty style on "Shipwreck" and during his live performances will please his dedicated followers, Connelly said.

"The show is really great," Connelly said. "Nobody walks away disappointed. It's really intense."

HANG ON!

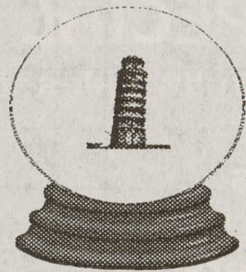
Liberal Arts Career Awareness Fair

Wednesday, March 1, 1995

Rudder Exhibit Hall • 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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