

CULTURE

Art league provides display space for aspiring student artists

Brazos Valley Art League spring show on exhibit until June 1

By Olivia Knight

► The art community in Brazos Valley is carving out a space for students in the local art scene.

The Brazos Valley Art League opened its spring show on March 24, with pieces featuring all manners of styles and subjects.

Molly Wallace, program director for the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley, said participating in the Art League is a great resource for college students, especially those who want to go into the arts.

"It's really awesome to have local artists and see what they're all doing," Wallace said. "This is sort of an opportunity to have them do whatever they want."

For college students who wish to join the Art League, Marti Dunn, social chair of the Art League, said membership is \$40. Members can attend meetings on the first Monday of every month at noon.

"One of our shows is open to college and youth through high school," Dunn said. "And we've had some college students come out."

Sherry Killingsworth, the president of the Art League, said if college students want to enter a piece in a juried show, they can enter in a variety of divisions such as student, adult student and non-professional. In addition, Killingsworth said the league hosts member shows in the spring and the fall, along with themed shows.

"We will have a themed show in the fall and the theme is 'Up close and personal,'" Killingsworth said. "So it could be a self-portrait, which is kind of what we were going for. Our last themed show was 'The blues' and it could be music blues, or the color blue or anything that has to do with blue."

The Spring Show is featured in the Arts Center on Dartmouth Street until June 1. Admission is free and the center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.



The Brazos Valley Art League Spring Show is featured in the Arts Center on Dartmouth Street.

Jena Floyd — THE BATTALION

MEMORY CONTINUED

better. He finds a lot of students waste their focus and energy studying in long bursts, only to become distracted and immediately forget what they have just learned.

"The biggest problem students have is distraction," Klemm said. "When you have a learning experience, whether you remember it or not, is a function of what happened immediately before, during and immediately after the experience."

According to a pamphlet that Klemm said he often hands out to students and educators, the best way to study is in short bursts, followed by applying what you have just learned and then finally by doing some menial task to let your brain rest.

"This process of converting temporary memories to long-term memories is crucial because if you have to relearn, then your learning is not efficient," Klemm said. "The object should be to learn it in one try."

Klemm said these methods would not only improve a student's ability to memorize information, but can also preserve their mental health as they age.

"There is experimental

evidence that this protects your brain as you get older," Klemm said. "They have done postmortem studies and they have found people who should of have had Alzheimer's disease but didn't have Alzheimer's symptoms. Invariably, these were people who had been very mentally active all of their life."

Going forward, the active 80-year-old said he is writing a book for teachers on how to teach better learning — a point that he wishes more institutions would address.

"My focus is trying to change how educators do things," Klemm said. "We're neglecting the most important thing of all, which is to teach students learning skills. We are so busy teaching to the test that we don't teach them how to learn."

Education reform is on the docket in both the United States and Texas legislatures, both of which are looking to reform the Bush-era No Child Left Behind policies. Klemm said he believes smarter approaches to memory should be considered by policy makers.

"Memorization is a dirty word in most circles," he said. "Not enough thought is given to the fact that to do the good things you've got to have the foundation."

HAGEMAN CONTINUED

I've heard of so many girls that start these competitions and they develop eating disorders or starve. It's a huge oxymoron, because we are supposed to be representing health and fitness and I've seen the complete opposite. I started exploring different dieting methods and ultimately went with flexible dieting, a nonrestrictive meal plan. I don't work out more than two hours at a stretch, whereas some girls are known to be at the gym for six hours straight. By eating healthy and training efficiently, I wanted to prove there's a way to get fit without going to extremes, without developing an eating disorder, and more importantly, without losing yourself and closing off everyone in your life to diet so hard, for really only a minute or two on stage.

THE BATTALION: What was the actual competition like?

HAGEMAN: It was a smaller, newer show and organized for natural athletes. We had to go through pre-judging and were broken up into divisions. I participated in the bikini division, which focused on poise and presentation. You're trying to showcase you and your hard work. Stage time involved various poses and assessment of your training and body fat content. More so, it focused on body tone and composition. After judging, they have finals, which is basically an award ceremony.

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Human resource development senior **Cory Hageman** won second place in a statewide body building competition.

Nikita Redkar — THE BATTALION

MARIJUANA CONTINUED

on your criminal record."

Fazio said while Texas still criminalizes recreational possession, the penalties should be reasonable.

"I think if there's going to be reasonable regulation, most Texans would agree [marijuana] should be regulated similarly to alcohol — for responsible adults to enjoy and to not drive under," Fazio said.

The legality of cannabis now remains entirely under state jurisdiction. Snyder said federal government is entirely rejecting interference.

"Federal law focuses on big name drug circles while states deal chiefly with possession," Snyder said. "Since national government does not want to spend time going after possession, they won't interfere."

Snyder said legalization has given rise to a new and active market.

"For example, Colorado has a robust industry because there are no limitations on people who can grow [marijuana] and resell it," Snyder said.

Marijuana legalization has provided an economic boost in a number of sectors, Fazio said, including tourism.

"We see the whole state economy affected — those who sell the lights in grow-houses are suddenly spiking

in business, marketers, lawyers helping with trademarks, hotels and tourism have all seen growth," Fazio said.

Snyder said there has been substantial movement within the state for industrial hemp, the part of the marijuana plant without THC. Snyder said he believes a market for hemp would reap economic benefits for Texas.

"Texas is quite a fertile ground for hemp and hemp contains no mind-altering drug," Snyder said. "Currently, hemp is illegal under federal law because they figured it would just be easier to ban the whole plant rather than worry whether it contains THC or not."

Gina Warren, an associate professor at the Texas A&M School of Law who researches energy use in the marijuana cultivation industry, said the industry is still very new and policy makers are just now beginning to regulate it, although it will significantly impact the future of the industry.

Although any significant movement

for complete legalization seems further in the future, Fazio remains optimistic.

"In Texas we want to get it right," Fazio said. "It's a slow process because there is a lot of cognitive dissonance in Texas between drugs and conservatism. Generally speaking, people are ready for decriminalization."

Students differ on the matter. Ryan Holleman, construction science junior, said legalization for recreational uses can only help the economy.

"I honestly don't see what's wrong with marijuana ... You can't die from it, you can't OD from it," Holleman said. "Alcohol is way worse. Cigarettes are way worse. And they're legal. I don't know what the big deal is."

Other students, like civil engineering freshman Faith Tolson, argue it should remain criminalized in all forms. Finance senior Yaru Li, however, said regulated medicinal use could be beneficial as new business could be drawn to Texas.

▼
"[The bills] range from allowing just one medicinal component of marijuana to legalizing the drug in its entirety."

Frank Snyder, A&M law professor

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