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Hyde Art Gallery puts on their last Student Art Show for the academic year

 Rebecca Jefferis Williamson  Wed May 23, 2018



Hyde Art Gallery, located on El Cajon’s Grossmont College’s campus, held their last art show for the academic year 2017-2018.

The show, a student art show, runs from May 7-25.

On May 15, the gallery held a reception, catered by the college’s hospitality students, with an estimated 300 in attendance according to Alex DeCosta, director of the gallery.

Categories included sculpture, jewelry, painting, drawing, ceramics, photography and digital photography.

Grossmont College’s music department provided music.

“At the end of the semester we do a student member show,” said DeCosta, “Each faculty member’s class gets three submissions.”

The professors, totaling 26, then chose three pieces from each class, which totaled 104, based on their assignments during the semester.

According to DeCosta, “The assignments are the same, but you get unique art.”

Mediums included: charcoal, inkjet pigment print, gelatin silver print, photographs, brass, copper, graphite, wire, sterling silver, mixed media, oil painting, clay, pen/ink, ceramic, bronze, and more.

Awards of merit and academic excellence with a cash prize or guest passes included: President’s Prize (\$100) – Paris Karsh, Art Council Trust-Best of Show (\$100) – Victoria Rutherford, Art Council Trust-Art History Program Award of Merit (\$50) – Elizabeth Milano, Mingei International Museum Sponsored Award of Merit (guest passes) – Victor Alvarez, and many more.

“Typically, there will be a concept behind each show, but this is a student show,” explained Decosta, adding, “The pieces are priced to sell.”

Guests came from all over to visit the gallery.

“I took a ceramics class here and I wanted to see the ceramics,” said former student, Val Burke, 23, of Lemon Grove. Burke was visiting the show with friend, Philip Bracco.


“Last spring, I showed two pieces, and last fall, one piece,” said art student, Geoff Kelly, of Santee. “It’s cool. It’s kind of a validation. It makes you feel good that you’re not the only person who likes your pieces. It’s also nice to see your peers get a piece in the show. There is definitely a sense of comradery.”

In March a show, one of their concept shows, titled “Don’t Hold Still” with late 19th century photographic portraits of women, included pieces from the collection of Sandra Small. It was co-curated by Suda House and Gwentyth Mapes.

All Hyde Art Gallery exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. Their hours are Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Fridays by appointment only during the academic year. Excludes holidays and winter, spring breaks.

According to DeCosta, next is their 50th anniversary. Fifty years of showcasing art and cultivating artists.


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