

BC3 sculptors work in 360 degrees

Artists chosen in second student showcase since 2011 consider “all the different angles”

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Three views of “Giraffa Camelopardalis, 2118,” a sculpture created by Butler County Community College student Misty A. Roolf, of New Castle. Roolf alternated bronze-, gold- and silver-colored metal gears in composing the coat of a 10-inch giraffe and bronze wire brush to simulate its mane. Her work is among 70 in BC3’s second student art showcase since 2011, and is now on exhibit in BC3’s Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery.

(Butler, PA) Kennedy Kasperowski’s 16-inch ceramic vase, shaped with rakes and rolling pins, refined with fingers squeezing its clay surface, speaks of the Butler County Community College art student’s fear of the ocean, her childhood desire to become an astronaut, and her appreciation of the human form, and is among 30 three-dimensional pieces selected to be displayed in BC3’s second student art showcase since 2011.

Kasperowski’s “Chaotic Serene” and 70 other student works of art, culled by instructors of ceramics, drawing, painting and sculpture classes held on BC3’s main campus, at BC3 @ Cranberry and BC3 @ LindenPointe, are on exhibit through April 24 in the Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on BC3’s main campus in Butler Township.

The 19-year-old Hermitage resident has taken drawing and ceramics courses taught by Beth Anne Black at BC3 @ LindenPointe, Hermitage, and has also worked with oil and acrylic paints, chalk and pencil.

Sculpture, however, is the most difficult, Kasperowski said.

“By far,” she said. “You have to consider how everything looks from different angles.”

“I’ve always had a fascination with space”

Sculpture’s process is entirely different from that of two-dimensional art forms, said David Ludwick, a BC3 fine arts instructor and curator of the Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery.

“The person who is working in two dimensions, in drawing or in painting, is really dealing with optical illusions, because the artist is working on a flat, two-dimensional surface,” Ludwick said. “The person working in 3D and sculpture is usually, but not always, working in 360 degrees. They have to consider how it looks from all the different angles. In some ways, that is more difficult.”

The fundamental decision BC3 student sculptors must make early in the creation process, Ludwick said, “is whether they are going to take an approach in which they are going to be combining materials and parts and elements, or whether they are going to start out with a block or quantity of material, and subtract from that.”

Over nine hours, Kasperowski forged a pair of curry-orange colored goldfish flanking the vase, swimming unknowingly toward an octopus’ wine-colored tentacle, which spirals upwardly, its tan suction cups contrasting with the striated blue-and-white background.

The tentacle wraps above a nude-colored female form, and below a series of planets, whose tones reflect the marbled grays of Mercury; the reddish browns of Venus; and the blues, greens and whites of Earth.

“I’ve always had a fascination with space,” Kasperowski said. “When I was little I wanted to be an astronaut. And I have a fear of the ocean. I’m scared of what’s in it, and I’m slowly trying to overcome this fear.”

“It’s an honor” to be selected for show, curator says

Misty A. Rooff, of New Castle, alternated bronze-, gold- and silver-colored metal gears in composing the coat of a 10-inch giraffe in “Giraffa Camelopardalis, 2118” and bronze wire brush to simulate its mane; Danielle Shriver, of Butler, molded a ceramic bust of a female form in “Blue Lady”; and Annika Layman, with “Oceans,” designed a series of three escalating white panels upon which strands of 24-gauge blue, gold, pink and silver wire depict seafloor vegetation swaying in an imaginary tidal motion.



“Chaotic Serene,” by Butler County Community College student Kennedy Kasperowski, of Hermitage, is among 70 works of art in BC3’s second student art showcase since 2011, and is now on exhibit in BC3’s Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery.



“Untitled,” by Butler County Community College student Tomicka Pugh, of Sharpsville, is among 70 works of art in BC3’s second student art showcase since 2011, and is now on exhibit in BC3’s Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery.

“I like the movement and color of the piece itself,” said Layman, of Butler. “The ruggedness and simplicity of the blue wire creates the feel of an ocean current, which is further enhanced by the underwater plants.”

Ludwick likes the movement to formally feature student works selected by BC3 art instructors Black, David Todd, Cathy Jones and himself.

“It’s an honor to get in,” Ludwick said. “I have heard, when people come in to look at the show, how impressed they are with the work. Otherwise, that work would be hidden. We are simply missing the whole partnership aspect of it if we are simply completing the work, having it graded, and that is the end of the process.”

Ludwick resumed the BC3 student art showcase when he became curator of the Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery in fall 2017. The first student art showcase since 2011, held in November, featured 50 works created by students on BC3’s main campus, at BC3 @ Cranberry in Cranberry Township and at BC3 @ LindenPointe.

“Every show has its own personality,” Ludwick said. “Sometimes we get people who come in and they are looking to acquire something. They are looking for emerging young artists, someone who has a little bit of a different twist on things.”

The Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call the BC3 Education Foundation Inc. at (724) 287-8711 Ext. 8161.

A reception for the spring student art showcase will be held at the gallery from noon until 3 p.m. April 11, Ludwick said.



“Oceans,” by Butler County Community College student Annika Layman, of Butler, is among 70 works of art in BC3’s second student art showcase since 2011, and is now on exhibit in BC3’s Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery.