

# The eyes have it: Vision of BC3 students focus of showcase

50 works on display in first student exhibit in six years

Nov. 9, 2017



Details of drawings, paintings and sculptures appearing in the student art showcase are shown Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, at the Mary Hulton Phillips Art Gallery on BC3's main campus in Butler Township.

(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College's first student art showcase since 2011 features more than 50 paintings, drawings and sculptures culled from a field of 150, instructor David Ludwick said, and expresses visions otherworldly to earthy to everything under the sun – including a late-afternoon sky-scape in pastel.

The pieces, creations of students in art classes taught this fall by Ludwick, David Todd and Beth Anne Black on BC3's main campus in Butler Township, at BC3 @ Cranberry in Cranberry Township and BC3 @ LindenPointe in Hermitage, will be on display at the Mary Hulton Phillips Art Gallery from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays through Nov. 30.

Visitors to the gallery on BC3's main campus can view an oil painting suggestive of Picasso's cubist period; a watercolor mosaic hinting of an Egyptian influence; a charcoal, white chalk and ink three-faced drawing reminiscent of works by David Theron; lengths of 18- to 22-gauge wire spun into curious creatures and ceramic sculptures of earth-tone human forms and whimsically colored elephants.

## Nearly 70 try hand at art this semester

And Chayanne Christo's "Ethereal," an acrylic portrait that, according to Ludwick, achieves the primary purpose of any work of art.

"For something to be art, when the viewer looks at it, they have to feel some kind of emotional response," Ludwick said.

"Ethereal," says BC3 student artist Jocelyn Guy, is "very unique."

The 18-inch by 24-inch piece gives BC3 student artist Eileen Vaughn a "world-love kind of feeling."

"I really like it," Todd said. "It's a little dark, deep. The atmosphere is mysterious. It actually raises a lot of questions. It is astrological, and has a lot going for it. There's a lot in there."

An aureole of intensifying reddish hues defines the exterior of a mostly translucent being whose arms of streaking light, Christo says, "caress" a radiant planet near its center. A starfield – employing the technique of glazing, "creating luminosity and depth," Todd said – defines the interior of the being.

To its periphery, wisps of purple and lavender that fade into the blackness of space.



"Ethereal," an acrylic painting created by BC3 student Chayanne Christo is shown Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, at the Mary Hulton Phillips Art Gallery on BC3's main campus in Butler Township.



“I kind of liked it because it was unnatural,” said Christo, 20, of Foxburg, a graduate of Allegheny-Clarion Valley High who spent one week creating the piece with a message of “There is always something more. We are not alone. There is something out there. I am sure God didn’t create just us. It’s about godly love. Embracing us.”

### “Cosmic kind of piece” elicits “peace”

Ten students are enrolled in Black’s Arts 102 drawing course at BC3 @ LindenPointe. Ludwick’s drawing course and Arts 114 introduction to painting courses have 32 students on BC3’s main campus. Todd’s Arts 102 class has 10 students at BC3 @ Cranberry and his Arts 110 sculpture course has 17 students on BC3’s main campus.

Nearly 20 students are enrolled in BC3’s associate of fine arts degree program this fall, according to Sharla Anke, BC3’s assistant dean of institutional research. Among them, Walter Jordan, of Chicora, who said Christo’s imagery is unique.

“Just the idea to start with is interesting,” Jordan said. “And then there is the use of her colors and the outline of the being.”

Guy, of Prospect, a Slippery Rock Area High graduate and student in Ludwick’s introduction to painting course, said “Ethereal” is “definitely spacey, with something going on inside of the being.”

It makes her think of “warmth,” Guy said, “because of the colors. The outside going into the lightness and then into the dark. Technically, she did a really good job with blending, how she mixed her colors. It is so different.”

“Ethereal is a cosmic kind of piece,” said Vaughn, of Butler, another student in Ludwick’s introduction to painting course. “It is also like a world-love kind of thing with the emphasis right there on the chest. I sense peace in it. Peace and harmony and the unknown. There are no definitive or recognizable features on there. And the setting itself, a universal kind of sense to it.”

### Student: Creations like “a part of them”

Christo’s work reflects a combination of fantasy, whimsy and surrealism, Todd said.



A wire sculpture created by BC3 student Carrie Crawford is shown Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, at the Mary Hulton Phillips Art Gallery on BC3’s main campus in Butler Township.

“And the radiating light gives definition to the being,” Todd said. “The surrealistic part of it goes with the dream imagery. It is kind of dream imagery, which fits right into surrealism. The whole concept that she went about was very smart, very intelligent. And the way in which she implemented the technique just complemented it. The whole thing came together.”

Having a piece selected for BC3’s student art showcase is, Vaughn said, “a big deal.”

“Everyone can see it,” Christo said. “It’s neat.”

“It means a lot to students,” Guy said. “It is something special, being able to showcase their piece. It is like it is a part of them. It has meaning to them.”

Ludwick resumed the BC3 student art showcase when he became curator of the Mary Hulton Phillips Art Gallery this fall. The exhibit includes autumnal and floral still life and pastoral and coastal paintings, intricate pencil drawings, post-modern industrial depictions, and sculptures of rope, rock and hardware items.

A student having his or her piece selected for inclusion in the showcase by BC3’s art faculty should be excited, Black said.

“It is an honor and a privilege for students because someone in a college has taken the time to display their work and put on an art showcase like this,” Black said. “For somebody to do that, he or she has to appreciate the students’ work. The students should be honored because somebody who has years and years of experience in the art world and in teaching has taken time to showcase their artwork.”

Ludwick agreed.

“For these students, discovering a new talent or rediscovering a talent that has been on the back burner can be a refreshing reward,” Ludwick said. “To have faculty members reinforce that student’s interest and passion by selecting their work for a student show is the frosting on the cake.”

A reception will be held from noon until 3 p.m. Nov. 13 at the gallery.



A pencil drawing created by BC3 student Megan Divers is shown Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, at the Mary Hulton Phillips Art Gallery on BC3’s main campus in Butler Township.