



Dripping with a Hint of Color by Rebecca Velasquez

SURFACE TREATMENT

What: Fotowerks, Stick, and Friends: Art developed Through South Texas College,
Presented by UVAL
Where: Kika de la Garza Fine Arts Center, 921 E 12th Street, Mission
When: Through July 7, 2018
Hours: 10am to 6pm Tuesday to Friday, 2-5pm Saturday
Contact: (956) 583-2787
Free and open to the public

Students with Direction

With the perfect location for a show of this size, UVAL has supported the annual STC student show for the past six years.

BY NANCY MOYER

SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

“Fotowerks, Stick, and, Friends”, an annual exhibition of works by STC art students, showcases an impressively imaginative and energetic collection of artworks. The focal point of this exhibition is the collaborative sculpture near the entrance, “RGV Mother Nature Self Portrait” by Rebecca Velasquez, Ana Lourdes Hernández Flores, and Veronica Taiz Velasquez. It captures the attitude of the exhibition - whimsical, well-constructed, and exuding positive vibes. Artworks in this show are confident and honest, consisting of work done in classes during the year, as well as some works done outside the framework of instruction. The exhibition was organized through student organizations such as the Ceramics Club and the Photography Club,

with STC faculty members Scott Nicol, Chris Leonard, David Freeman, and Kyle Chaput overseeing the event. The students selected the art works to be shown.

Awards were given to the following outstanding works:

First Place: "Dripping with a Hint of Color" by Rebecca Velasquez (large format photograph)

Second Place: "Stop Growing" by Casey Ramirez (graphite drawing)

Third Place: "Existentialist Night" by Elkin Cortez (oil painting)

Honorable Mention: "Light and Dark" by Javier R. Castillo (ceramic)

Velasquez' photograph is exceptional in its use of various art elements and phenomena. It is a simple tier-based composition that harbors complex visualizations such as illusionism, extreme tonal contrast, complementary color sets, and repetition through the image of a drip of water. Ramirez' drawing affirms that good art occurs from the intensity of personal emotions. His gentle image inspired by fatherhood is not only masterfully executed, but we feel the familial warmth from the minimal, yet admirably sufficient inclusion of shapes – the grip of the child's hand upon the father's thumb, its touch releasing a softly felt visualization of the heart along with delicate wisps of daffodils. On the same theme, Ramirez also shows a digital photograph, "Her Kiss" that also heightens the emotions.

A separate grouping of drawings and paintings on the left wall is identified as "Capstone" works. Outstanding in this group was "Masked Confidence" by Samantha Mata, whose concept speaks well of the level of instruction that this exhibition encompasses. Her group of three pastel drawings of the nude female body is impressive in the positioning of the figure, creating a contradiction of the contemporary psyche. "Capstone works are by STC students who are graduating and developing a body of work," explained Nicol. "Capstone is like a Bachelor of Fine Arts show except that it's at the sophomore level. One of the reasons that we have such diversity and good quality work here (in the Capstone group) is that this is not work from one class or one assignment; these students determined what they were going to make."

The quality of work in "Fotowerks, Stick, and, Friends: Art developed Through South Texas College", speaks well overall of the STC art faculty as well as the students' efforts and abilities. This exhibit belies the assumption that first and second year art students cannot produce exhibit-worthy art. Nicol and Freeman had nothing but praise for these students. "I think it's a great show," exclaimed Nicol. "It's one of the stronger shows we've had," added Freeman. And certainly, this show contains works that are well worth a visit.

Nancy Moyer, Professor Emerita of Art, UTRGV, is an art critic for The Monitor. She may be reached at nmoyer@rgv.rr.com