Special Meanings
An exhibition of the Labelle Miller Southwest Pottery Collection

Opening Reception
Thursday October 17th 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Guest Artists Debra & Preston Duwyenie Presentation
Thursday November 7th, 4:00pm

Guest Artists Demonstration Friday, November 8th
All Day Event

Muskogee Creek Poet Jennifer Foerster Poetry Reading
Monday, November 11th, 5:30pm

Foster Gallery | Haas Fine Arts Center
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
121 Water Street
Eau Claire, WI 54702
Uwec.ly/fostergallery
(715)836-2328

Hours
Mon.-Fri. 10am - 4:30pm
Thurs. 6pm - 8pm
Sat.-Sun. 1pm - 4:30pm
2019-2020

**Calendar.**

**Sept. 6**  [Unusual Message](#)
Opening reception: Thursday, September 26, 6-7:30 pm

**Oct. 2**  [Special Meanings](#)
Opening reception: Thursday, October 17, 6-7:30 pm

**Oct. 18**  [Breaking the Grid](#)
Opening reception: Saturday, December 7, 3-5 pm

**Nov. 12**  [Midwest Queeritivities](#)
Opening reception: Thursday, February 27, 6-7:30 pm

**May to Sept.**  [BFA Show, Spring 2020](#)
Virtual exhibition available via link.
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UNUSUAL MESSAGE
transformed everyday given objects into extraordinary unusual images by artists and designers from 12 countries

9.6 - 10.2
RECEPTION
Thursday, September 26
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Artist Talk featuring
Ned Gannon, Jyl Kelley
and Hyungjoo A. Kim
Friday, September 27
10:00 - 10:50 AM | HFA 101

FOSTER GALLERY
Haas Fine Arts Center
121 Water St., Eau Claire, WI
715-836-2228 | uwec.ly/fostergallery

Hours:
M-F 10:45 - 5:30
Th Evenings 6-8
Sat & Sun 1-4:30

ORGANIZERS:
Eastern Mediterranean University
UWEC Dept. of Art + Design
Foster Gallery
hyungjookimdesignlab
Art can be found in all forms throughout the city of Eau Claire. Through music, performances and, in this recent art installation, even a sheep skull can be considered art. Associate Lecturer Amanda Bulger said the exhibit’s “Unusual Message” was originally curated by Martin R. Baeyens, a professor at the Eastern Mediterranean University. Baeyens aimed to highlight the work of artists across North America, Asia and Europe.

“He had this idea to reach out to several different universities in various countries to get a breath of different types of knowledge from artists to contribute to the ‘Unusual Message’ project,” Bulger said.

Madelain Adrian, a first-year biology student, said as someone who is not active in the art community, “Unusual Message” opened her eyes to the variety of outlets artists can use to convey meaning. “(The art) is interesting because it makes ordinary people who are not necessarily well versed in art able to relate to everyday things,” Adrian said. “People can then interpret their own meaning of what the objects are.”

According to the Eastern Mediterranean University, artists took inspiration from common objects to help audiences see the images in a new way. Bulger said the exhibit came to Eau Claire from the original curator’s contacts with Hyungjoo A. Kim, the previous assistant professor of art and design.

“There are 64 different participants,” Bulger said. “Three of them were or currently are professors at the University, (such as) professors Ned Gannon and Jyl Kelley from art and design.” Adrian said she did not know anything about the exhibit originally, but imagined the art would take on an obscure approach that average people would not expect.

“I didn’t even know what the title was called,” Adrian said. “Now the exhibit makes you think and puts meaning onto objects that were otherwise pretty standard.”

Bulger said the current Eau Claire professors took inspiration from the original objects to help audiences see the images in a new way. “The objects that they chose from were an owl, a ring, moonlight, a book, olive tree leaves, a sheep skull, dragons, an egg, the at symbol (@) and a paperclip,” Bulger said. “Kind of a wide variety of objects.”

Adrian said she appreciates having access to an open art installation directly on campus. “This exhibit encourages people to step out of their comfort zone a little bit. If you are not someone who normally is into these kinds of things, it is cool to check it out,” Adrian said. “Maybe it will make you think a little more and experience new kinds of emotions.”

Bulger said one of the most rewarding elements of holding an exhibit like “Unusual Message” is the ability to feel interconnected with people’s culture from around the world. “All too often we have ideas about certain things and feel unwilling to change out ideas or look at things from a new perspective,” Bulger said. “(Unusual Message) opens up doors for people to talk to each other about different types of life.” Adrian said she is inspired to learn more about alternate forms of art besides what she is comfortable viewing and encourages other students to do the same.

“I don’t really look at the materialistic styles of art like paintings, sculptures and objects,” Adrian said. “This is something that is cool, interesting and not what I would have expected from an art exhibit.” While Bulger did not have much say in the creative process of “Unusual Message,” she said the journey her fellow colleagues shared was fun to experience and hopes others will learn from their work. “I think the greatest opportunity for people to learn about the creative process would be to come to the artist talk,” Bulger said. “It would offer great insight to how and why they created their pieces and possibly what they may choose to do in the future after having done this project.”

From The Spectator (September 18, 2019)
Written by Evelyn Nelson, Currents Editor
October 18th - November 12th

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Thurs eve 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Pictured artwork by Preston Duwyenie

This Exhibition is Sponsored by: American Indian Studies, Art and Design, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, McIntyre Library, and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation
UW-Eau Claire's Foster Gallery announced its new exhibition, “Special Meanings,” which featured select pieces from the LaBelle Miller Southwest Pottery Collection. Donated to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation in 2017, the collection features approximately 400 pieces of Native American-created pottery from the American Southwest.

For the first time ever, a major exhibition of pieces from this collection will be on display for the public in the Foster Gallery from Oct. 18-Nov. 13. The opening reception is planned for 6 p.m. Oct. 17 in the gallery. The reception will feature light refreshments and an opportunity to connect with the exhibition's co-curators, Susan O'Brien, professor of art & design, and Greg Kocken, associate professor in McIntyre Library.

The exhibition will showcase nearly 100 pieces from the collection, representing a multitude of styles and traditions from more than a dozen Native American nations of the American Southwest. Pieces in the collection include Hopi pottery in trademark shades of cream, yellow, apricot or light red; Acoma pieces with fine lines and elaborate geometric patterns; Cochiti storyteller figurines and so much more. Housed in McIntyre Library's Special Collections and Archives department, the collection is an invaluable teaching resource for students.

There will be several featured events in the gallery during the exhibition. At 4 p.m. Nov. 7 there will be a public presentation by featured guest artists Preston and Debra Duwyenie. From 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 8, the Duwyenies will provide a pottery-making demonstration within the gallery space. And at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 11, Muskogee Creek poet Jennifer Foerster will deliver a reading within the gallery space.

This amazing collection was donated by Richard LaBelle, a 1968 UW-Eau Claire art education graduate, and Al Miller, a 1972 UW-River Falls art education graduate. Richard and Al taught art in northwest Wisconsin for over 30 years, and during summer breaks and after retiring would combine their knowledge of fine art with a love for pottery as they built their collection during numerous trips between Wisconsin and the American Southwest.

This exhibition is generously sponsored by the American Indian Studies program, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, department of art & design, McIntyre Library and the UW-Eau Claire Foundation.

“Pottery is a sacred thing that holds life giving water, food - A gift given to us by our Mother Earth. The designs also hold special meaning.” - Laguna artist Myron Sarracino, Dec. 12, 1996. From a letter to Al Miller included with a piece in the LaBelle Miller Southwest Pottery Collection.
The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire’s Foster Gallery presented “Breaking the Grid” from Nov. 25-Dec. 15. This exhibition features capstone projects by bachelor of fine arts candidates Emma Reed and Pa Yang. A reception was held on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 3-5 p.m. in the Foster Gallery.

Emma Reed is a graphic design BFA candidate from Fort Atkinson. Emma exhibited a poster series that comments on stereotypes and nonsense comments made toward women in today’s society. Describing her work as serious with a little sass, Emma states, “For this poster series I challenged myself to create something that commented on things not only I have experienced but something many other women have based on gender. This poster series brings attention to small statements made toward women and stereotypes based on being a woman that sound quite absurd in today’s society. I am influenced by my own experiences growing up as a girl into a woman as well as artists like Barbra Krueger, The Guerrilla Girls and Martha Rosler. My goal is to generate conversation regarding the inequalities women face. I challenge people to think of scenarios where they have seen or encountered sexism or any oppressive behavior whether if they saw it or said it themselves. How can we learn and move on from these behaviors? How do we get where everyone has equal opportunities no matter who the person is?”

Pa Yang is a graphic design BFA candidate from St. Paul, Minnesota. Pa exhibited a visual identity system for a museum called The International Museum of Rail Travel. The museum’s purpose is to educate and give viewers an experience of train travel from around the world. Pa states, “The visual identity system is not only used as a branding tool but allows viewers a little glimpse of what my vision of the museum is about. My work reflects my love for traveling as well as my influences from the places I travel to. One place that had a big influence on my senior art show work was my study abroad experience in China last summer. Although I spent about a month in China, I experienced so much, and it inspired me to design something from my time there. One thing that was memorable to me was having the experience to travel by train for long-distance travel. Trains made it convenient for me to travel abroad, especially when I didn’t have a car. Without the train services, I wouldn’t have been able to learn and experience the different parts of China. This visual identity system for the museum allows me to share my study abroad experience, as well as educating viewers about train travel.”
MIDWEST QUEER ITIVITIES

FEB 14 - MAR 11
FOSTER GALLERY

OPENING RECEPTION THURS FEB 27
The American Midwest is perhaps most known for its heritage of agricultural and industrial prowess, yet often unmentioned are the plethora of progressive, diverse cultures and their inextricable impact on the overarching identity of the region. “Midwest Queeritivities” is an exhibit consisting of multimedia art and literary works that illuminate queer identities and their relationships to other cultures in the Midwest with emphasis on the following questions:

The Midwest has often been reduced by long-established stereotypes and the cultural homogenization of its people, landscapes, and traditions. How are these notions being challenged and reshaped in contemporary art?

Conversely, how have regionally specific elements, both cultural and otherwise, e.g., religious affiliations, gender expectations, rural/urban contrasts, political dispositions, climates and geographies impacted the local LGBTQ+ identities?

How are artists reimagining social, institutional and historical spaces to be more inclusive and representative of the Midwest’s increasingly dynamic peoples?

UW-Eau Claire has been recognized as the best LGBTQIA+ school in Wisconsin two years running by the Campus Pride Index as well as ranked No. 3 nationally by College Choice in their list of the top 50 best overall campuses for LGBTQIA+ students. The “Midwest Queeritivities” exhibit will be the first of its kind for the Foster Gallery. The exhibition was curated by faculty members Cedar Marie and Stephanie Turner and students Sarah Jo Ferraro, Kristina Tlusty and Adam Yarish.

Midwest Queeritivities Exhibition + Events:
Reception: Thursday, Feb. 27, 6-7:30 p.m.
Live music by Free Garbage: Thursday, Feb. 20, 6-7:30 p.m.
Queer panel: “What’s Sex (Gender, Race, Place, Love) Got to Do with It?” with Jeff Morin, William Chambers, Jonathan Rylander, Andy Adams: Friday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-noon.
Live reading and open mic: Thursday, March 5, 6-7:30 p.m.

Support for this exhibition has been provided in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Council, UW-Eau Claire’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the departments of art & design, English and music and theatre arts.
virtual exhibition now open!

The University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire’s Foster Gallery presents the Spring 2020 Bachelor of Fine Arts Virtual Exhibition. This exhibition featured work by May 2020 Bachelor of Fine Arts degree candidates Sarah Jo Ferraro, Katie Mattis, Payton Sullivan, and Jake Taylor. Works are viewable through September 2020 via virtual exhibition link.

Sarah Jo Ferraro is a photography BFA candidate from Edgerton, WI. Sarah Jo will be exhibiting a multimedia installation that includes textiles, video, sculpture, light, and poetry. Sarah writes, “I would describe the installation as a fantasy bedroom. Yayoi Kusama really influences my work because creating her “obsessive” artwork is also a way for her to deal with sexual trauma. My work is heavily influenced by intersectional feminism. I put my pain into words, films, fabric, etc. and try to make them shine in a way that is healing.”

Katie Mattis is a ceramic BFA candidate from Hudson, WI. She is exhibiting 10 functional ceramic works varying from teapots to a chess set. Katie writes, “My work is precise and clean. I am inspired by nature and other artists such as Martha Grover, S.C Rolf, and Deborah Schwarzkopf. My work is largely functional pieces, often kitchenware. I often combine natural textures with bright colors, adding a whimsical look to my pieces.”

Payton Sullivan is an illustration BFA candidate from Racine, WI. Payton is exhibiting two series of works that are digital paintings. The first is a portrait series about the history of a few women in Hollywood. It connects beauty and the portrayal of women in film from a historical stance. The second series is about the relationship between different animals. It gives the viewer an insight into the lives of wildlife and their unique interactions with one another. Payton writes, “I tend to draw realistically more often than not because it requires me to acknowledge every detail.”

Jake Taylor is a ceramic BFA candidate from Verona, WI. Jake’s work includes sculptural ceramic forms juxtaposed with large format high definition macro photographs of glaze details. Inspired by symbols found in traditional Kanji and Pre-Islamic Arabic, Jake used language to create his pieces and compliments the forms with an intricate study of surface glazes. He writes, “My work is driven by the concept of controlled fluidity. Throughout the entire process from wet clay to fired work there are isolated moments of spontaneous creation.”