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USI in the News: Mid-States art entries invite a closer look

By Roger McBain

Whimsy, mystery and subtle, sometimes almost hidden images, ideas and homages lurk in the Evansville Museum's 53rd Mid-States Art Exhibition.

The politics of global domination, the psychology of domestic abuse and the impact of the machine in the garden are among ideas nestled in the puzzle pieces of several images in this show, up through Jan. 28 in the Main Gallery.

Rob Millard-Mendez, an assistant art professor at the University of Southern Indiana, pieced together sections of yard sticks with steel and ivory for "Unable to See Over the Hegemony," which seems to offer a wry reflection on the use of force in world politics.

Millard-Mendez's three-dimensional piece, which won \$1,500 in purchase awards, looks like a crazy cuckoo-clock mask bristling with cannons and towers, its view obstructed by tall, crenellated turrets. From a pair of open doors in the mouth, a white fist on a telescoping hinge brandishes a large mallet.

At first glance, "Mischief," a large oil painting by David Hannon of Muncie, Ind., looks like a glowing sunset at the junction of the city and the country. The title invites a closer look, however. Scrutinize the scene and you'll find at least five figures hiding in the foliage around some sort of industrial building. They watch as a man looks warily around from the building, perhaps trying to figure out who rang the doorbell, and what might be inside the large paper bag left on the sidewalk before him.

The painting, which won a \$300 merit award, could depict a prank, but the presence of five men hiding suggests something more ... perhaps an unfolding act of eco-terrorists?

Classical art references bring a surreal power to "The Bike Path," a graphite drawing by Laurin D. Notheisen of Bowling Green, Ky.

Set on a single-track bike trail in a young forest, the drawing, winner of a \$250 merit award, includes contemporary figures drawn from Sandro Botticelli's 15th-century painting "Primavera," and Raphael's early-16th-century painting, "St. Catherine of Alexandria." The latter figure gazes heavenward in a look of reverie or perhaps rapture, as she leans on the frame of her mountain bike.

And "M is for Man," a large charcoal drawing by Randy Simmons of Paducah, Ky., uses an inverted female torso to represent a phallus, symbolizing male domination in domestic abuse. The image hangs like an altar figure between two bowing, or perhaps cowering, half-clad female forms, before the enormous backdrop of an old-fashioned corset, with stiff ribs and a hand-pulled laces.

They're among 33 works by artists from six Midwestern states in the show, judged for the museum by M. Stephen Doherty, editor of American Artist magazine in New York.

Area artists represented in the exhibition include Millard-Mendez, A.J. Musia, Joycelyn Todisco and **Kathryn Waters** [USI professor of art], all of Evansville; Michael Bartholomew and H. John Smith, both of Newburgh; Robert Pote of Mount Vernon, Ind.; and Chris Thomas of Henderson, Ky.

Editor's note: This article appeared in the *Courier & Press* on Friday, January 12, 2007.

USI in the News: Finally feeling at home - Transfer the right call for former Red Devil Baines

By Kevin Harris

After a rough freshman year at IUPUI, **Jasmine Baines** has finally found her home away from home.

The Jeffersonville graduate is enjoying her second year as a forward on the University of Southern Indiana women's basketball team.

Despite making the Mid-Continent Conference All-Newcomer Team at IUPUI as a freshman, Baines, now a junior, was unhappy playing at the Indianapolis-based Division I school. After that season, she decided to transfer to USI in Evansville and has not regretted making the move one bit.

"I love USI. It's almost like a second home. I like Evansville..." Baines said.

Since she started playing for USI, she has averaged 13.5 points and 5.3 rebounds a contest. Last season, she led the team in scoring at 14 points per game, ranking her fifth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, and second on the team in rebounds at 5.1 per game. Those statistics earned her an honorable-mention spot on the all-GLVC squad.

Baines has picked up where she left off this season. Entering Thursday's road game at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, she ranked second on the team in scoring (12.4), rebounding (5.9) and blocks (13) and third in steals (18).

Her production this season has helped USI post an 11-2 overall record and a 5-0 mark in the GLVC. Last year, the Screaming Eagles were 15-15 overall and 7-12 in the conference.

Baines said the Screaming Eagles are on track to accomplish several of their preseason goals.

"One of our goals is to win the conference and make the NCAA tournament," she said. "But we want to go further than that. We want to make the Sweet 16 and the Elite Eight. We want to go undefeated at home. We have a good chance (to accomplish those goals) if we keep playing the way we've been playing."

Baines thinks USI's depth is a major reason for its success this season. She is one of three Screaming Eagles who has a scoring average in double figures and one of six who tally more than six points a contest.

"We have more scorers on our team," Baines said. "We have about five or six that can score, not just two or three."

Baines says the transition from the Division I level to Division II has been really smooth.

"There is really not a big difference. You work just as hard at the Division I level," Baines said.

Baines gets plenty of opportunities to play in front of familiar faces. Her mother, former Jeff standout and Indiana Girls' All-Star Audrey Moore, attends several of her home contests along with several relatives and friends from Jeff.

Editor's note: This article appeared in the *New Albany Tribune* on Friday, January 12, 2007.

Show USI spirit in the Homecoming Office Decorating Contest

Does your department have the most USI spirit? Show it by competing in the Homecoming Office Decorating Contest. Judging will be based on the use of the Homecoming theme ("Cheers to the Red, White, and Blue"), USI's colors of red and blue, and the University's name and images, and will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 30.

In order to participate, register by 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 26, 2007. The winner of the contest will receive a trophy that will travel among winning departments from year to year.

Follow these guidelines when decorating your office:

- When using lights, do not string lights or extension cords underneath your windows or doors. Use the exterior outlets and be sure the lights you are using are rated for exterior use.
- Do not string lights across where people walk; this could create a hazard.
- Do not cover your office door numbers. These must be visible at all times.
- When putting decorations on your windows, please consider the type of tape or glue you are using and choose a type that will come off and clean up easily.
- Use only decorations that are nonflammable.
- Do not place decorations around lights.
- Decorations cannot restrict the view of any Exit signs.
- Decorations should not restrict the movement through hallways, entrances, and exits of offices or buildings.
- All decorations should be discarded by February 9.

To register for the contest, please email the information listed below to the Office of Student Development Programs at connect@usi.edu.

Name of Office/Building:

Building Name and Room Number:

Contact:

Phone Number:

Email:

Community of Scholars Lecture: "Ecological Criticism and Latin American Literature"

The 2006-07 Community of Scholars Lecture, "Ecological Criticism and Latin American Literature," will be presented by **Dr. Jonathan Tittler**, professor of Hispanic studies at the University of Rutgers-Camden.

Tittler's research interests include Afro-Hispanic literature,

the theory and practice of literary translation, and ecological criticism in connection with Latin American fiction. He will present the lecture at 7 p.m. January 29, 2007, in Carter Hall in the University Center.

A specialist in contemporary Spanish American literature, Tittler has taught at colleges and universities on three continents. His research interests lie in literary and cultural criticism and theory, and he has developed a specialization in Colombian literature and culture. He recently published a political-literary biography of a Colombian author and politician titled *El verbo y el mando: Vida y milagros de Gustavo Alvarez Gardeazábal* (*Language and Power: The Life and Times of Gustavo Alvarez Gardeazábal*).

Other research areas include Afro-Hispanic literature and culture and the theory and practice of literary translation. He has translated a number of Spanish American novels into English, including the forthcoming Manuel Zapata Olivella's Afro-Colombian epic novel *Chango, the Baddest Dude*, to be published by OneWorld Publications, of Oxford, England.

Tittler's current book-length research project deals with ecological criticism, an area of inquiry that weds environmental issues with literary studies. His lecture applies the concerns of ecological criticism to classic and contemporary works of Spanish American literature.

Call the Foreign Language Department at 812/461-5203 for more information.

RopeWalk Reading Series announced

The first reading in the spring 2007 RopeWalk Reading Series will feature USI faculty and local contributors to *Home Again: Essays and Memoirs from Indiana*, an anthology about life in Indiana published by the Indiana Historical Society Press. USI contributors scheduled to read include co-editor **Jim McGarrath**, assistant professor of English; **Patricia Aakhus**, assistant professor of English; **Leisa Belleau**, instructor in English; and **Matthew Graham**, associate professor of English. Also reading will be **Scott Saalman '87**, and **Margaret McMullan** and **Bill Hemminger**, both professors of English at the University of Evansville.

The *Home Again* reading will be held Thursday, January 25. Other readings in the series include:

Liam Rector, February 22

Liam Rector's books of poems are *The Executive Director of the Fallen World* (2006), *American Prodigal* (1994), and *The Sorrow of Architecture* (1984). His poems have appeared in *Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *The New Republic*, *Boston Review*, *Slate* and *Ploughshares*. Among his honors are fellowships in poetry from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has served as poetry editor of *Harvard Magazine* and has taught at Columbia University, The New School, Emerson College, and George Mason University. He founded and directs the graduate Writing Seminars at Bennington College. Rector is on the faculty of the 2007 RopeWalk Winter Retreat.

RopeWalk Press authors, March 22

A reading to celebrate the creation of RopeWalk Press and will feature authors reading from the first chapbooks published by RopeWalk: Matthew Guenette and Jeffrey Thomson. The first release was Guenette's *A Hush of Something Endless*. A graduate of Southern Illinois University's MFA program, Guenette was an instructor in English at USI from 1999 to 2002. He currently teaches composition, literature, and creative writing at Madison Area Technical College in Madison, Wisconsin. RopeWalk Press will release *Thomson's Benevolent Knowledge* on March 1, 2007. Thomson is the recipient of the 2005 Literature Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts and has won

the Masters Poetry Contest and the Academy of American Poets Prize. He is an assistant professor of creative writing at the University of Maine-Farmington.

The 2007 Spring RopeWalk Reading Series will conclude with a special reading in April to celebrate National Poetry Month, with a reader to be announced at a later date.

Each reading in the series begins at 7 p.m. in Kleymeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center and is followed by a book-signing and reception.

For more information, contact McGarrah at 812/461-5381.

Around the World International Photo Contest entries due February 12

International Programs and Services is sponsoring its annual Around the World International Photo Contest with entries due February 12. First prize is \$100, and \$50 prizes will be awarded to the winners of three categories: People of the World, Global Landscapes, and Architecture.

Rules for the contest:

- Photos must have been taken outside of the United States.
- Entries may be submitted via email or print format (8x10).
- Original photos only-Limit three entries per student, faculty, or staff.
- No professional photography.
- Each entrant can only win one prize.
- Only USI students, faculty, and staff can participate.

Submit photos to kemurray@usi.edu or to the International Programs and Services Office in University Center Room 17. Winners will be announced during International Week, February 19-23, 2007.

Call International Programs and Services at 812/465-7183 for more information.

Names in the news

In sympathy

Dr. Nils Johansen's father, **Ivar H. Johansen**, died January 2, 2007, in Oslo, Norway. The University community extends sympathy to Dr. Johansen, advisor in the University Division, and to his wife **Dr. Jane Johansen**, associate professor of business education.

The University community extends sympathy to **Paul Kinner**, computer maintenance technician in the computer center, whose father, **John Kinner**, died January 8. Services were held January 12 at Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Greenwood, Indiana.

Accomplishments

Dr. Scott Gordon, dean of the Pott College of Science and Engineering, has recently been selected to serve as a member of the review board for the *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (IJTLHE)*. The IJTLHE provides broad coverage of higher education pedagogy and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) across diverse content areas, educational institutions, and levels of instructional expertise. The specific emphasis of IJTLHE is the dissemination of knowledge for improving higher education pedagogy.

Carolyn Roth, instructor in art, is currently exhibiting her painting "Entanglements" in the Nude International 2007 exhibition at the Loudoun House Gallery. The exhibition is sponsored

by the Lexington Art League in Lexington, KY. More than 840 submissions were received from 224 artists across the United States and abroad. Vincent Desiderio, juror for Nude International 2007, selected 103 pieces from the pool of entries. The exhibit will run through March 4.

FYI

Student talent on display in USI Theatre Showcase

USI Theatre students will show off their technical, design, and performance skills in the USI Theatre Showcase, with performances to begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 20 in the Mallette Studio Theatre in the Liberal Arts Center.

Starting at 7 p.m. the public can view lighting design by **Sean Nickell** and makeup design by **Amanda Grubb** in the hallway just outside the Mallette. Megan Fallon (scenic design), **Adam Rager** (technical direction), and **Robert Dagit** (sound design) will offer presentations about their work in Kleymeyer Hall.

Light refreshments will be served.

At 8 p.m., the hour-long performance segment of the Showcase will feature the best work from the fall 2006 semester, with monologues, scenes, and songs performed by students and chosen by **Lenny Leibowitz**, assistant professor of theatre and artistic director of New Harmony Theatre and **Elliot Wasserman**, director of theatre.

Tickets are \$12. To reserve tickets, call 812/422-3970.

New David L. Rice Library Web site

The David L. Rice Library will be making a design change to its main and internal web pages. The new page can be viewed at www.usi.edu/library/index.asp.

The New Harmony Theatre holds local audition

The New Harmony Theatre will hold a local audition on January 21 on the USI campus. Auditions are open to experienced adult actors, who are asked to prepare one classical and one contemporary monologue. To be considered for *I Do! I Do!*, auditioners should prepare one monologue (either classical or contemporary) and a short song. Singers must bring sheet music written in their key. Monologues from this season's productions are acceptable audition pieces. Under the artistic direction of **Lenny Leibowitz**, the theatre's 2007 season will include *Amadeus*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *I Do! I Do!* Members of Actors' Equity Association as well as non-members are eligible to audition. To schedule an audition, call The New Harmony Theatre at 465-1635 or toll free at 877/NHT-SHOW (877/648-7469). For more information on New Harmony Theatre visit www.newharmonytheatre.com.

Common sense approach to retirement planning

An investment professional will offer a seminar on financial strategies for successful retirement through USI Extended Services in January and February. Participants will learn how to get the most from guaranteed investments, tax-free income, and estate planning. The seminar, which takes a conservative approach to wise money management, is designed for persons who are already retired or who plan to retire in the next 10 years. It will be offered for four Saturdays beginning January 27 at 9 a.m. in Rm. 2025 of the Orr Center and for four Tuesdays beginning February 27 at 6 p.m. in Rm. 204 of the University Conference Center. For cost information and registration, persons can call 812/464-1989 or 800/467-8600. Details are available online at www.usi.edu/extserv.