

Coburn Art Gallery holds exhibition



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The Coburn Art Gallery opened their exhibition, “Figura(tive)” on Aug. 30.

Director of the Coburn Art Gallery and professional instructor, Cynthia Petry says that the exhibition will show a lot of skill sets from different artists.

“The exhibition is called Figura(tive). It is based on works that curated from artists in Ohio, and also one artist from New York,” Petry said. “The works were selected on the nature of their subjects. Being figurative, we’re talking about level of realism, technical virtuosity, something if you see it immediately, you see the skill set that goes in the work, but then you also begin to see the content.”

Judy Takacs, one of the featured artists in this exhibition, has showed her work in many places, including Butler Institute of American Art, Lakeland Community College and Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C).

“I am always trying to promote figurative art because figurative has gotten kind of swept to the side over the past 75, 80, 100 years, and I think it’s making a resurgence,” Takacs said. “I feel like the more figurative shows there are, in prominent places like this [the Coburn Art Gallery] and the more

Many gather to look at the various works of art at the first exhibition for the semester.

really good figurative artists who are more out there showing stuff, it helps us all.”

Senior Fine Arts and Graphic Design Major, Kiana Ziegler, attended the exhibition to see what was going on.

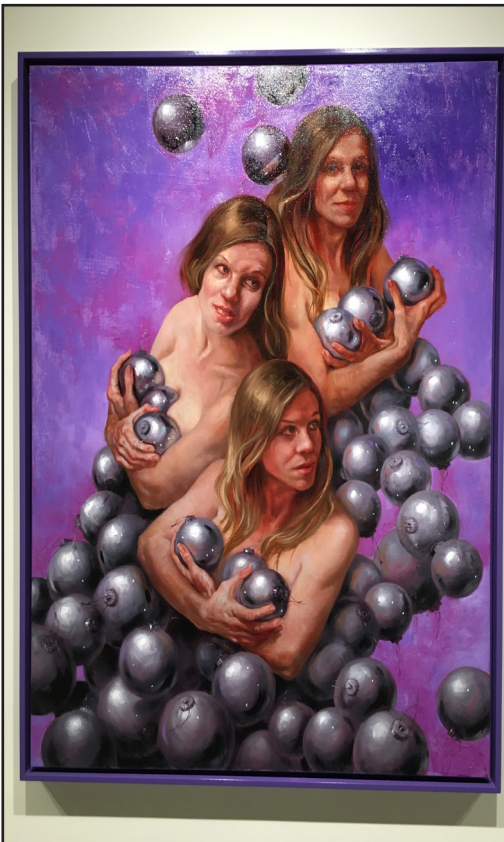
“It’s always good to see what other artists have done,” Ziegler said. “Maybe I have an idea, or have had an idea, and I didn’t really know how I was going to go about doing that but maybe seeing some of their work I can be like ‘oh, that’s how they do it,’ or maybe it just gives other ideas for painting.”

Petry was very thorough in picking the artists for this exhibition.

“I wanted to pick works that fell into this idea of realism where you’re representing something that looks like what it is, but the rest of it is very straight-forward with the subject,” Petry said. “I think sometimes those works get dismissed because it’s ‘only a portrait.’ No, it’s not just a physical portrait of someone. There’s a lot of psychology going into that portrait.”

Takacs showed three pieces from her series Chicks with Balls in which she depicts strong women throughout history. Joe called attention to the people he specifically picked for portraits and Benjy’s work is nature-based.

“There was someone from Wis-



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“Chicks with Balls” by Judy Takacs on the left and “Edward and Marian” by Benjy Davies on the right

consin and they weren’t going to be here this week when the show opened, and I agreed to come over and open it for them,” Petry said. “The woman was crying. She was that touched by Judy’s work and also Joe’s work, just how they were able to capture the human form

and tell us so much about them in this vehicle of paint.”

The exhibition is open free and open to the public weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and noon to 4 p.m. on weekends. It will close Sept. 28.

“I hope that a lot of students

will come see this show because it’s still fairly uncommon to have figurative art shows, especially in the midwest,” Takacs said. “On the coasts, they’re more present. I think it’s good for art students and regular people to come see this show. Get here before Sept. 28.”

Cancelled WWII trip leaves students upset

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Dr. John Moser and his colleague Dr. Eric Pullin from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin were looking forward to taking 15 students and two Ashland community members on a WWII tour on May 29.

Moser makes the trip every four years, and the 2014 WWII trip was a great success, so nobody anticipated any problems.

A week before departure to Russia, the group’s travel agent, Nick Reese, suddenly stopped responding to emails. Then the money, passports, and Visas all vanished.

It was completely unexpected, considering the university had worked with Reese on two previous trips and everything went well, including the WWII trip in 2014.

“Four years ago we contracted with a U.S. based agency called World Cultural Agencies, and they contracted with Nick Reese in London, who owns Equinox Tours,” Rebecca Parillo, director of study abroad, said. “Nick went up to John and Eric and said if you want to cut out the middle-man, you can contract directly with me and Equinox.”

So they did. The faculty members had a preference for Reese based on previous experiences with him, the pricing was fantastic at \$4,000 and the proposal was well put to-

gether.

Parillo sent Reese the final balance in February and that is when odd things started happening. Suddenly there was an issue with the Visas, the issue being they were much more expensive than the group was originally told.

“John and Eric emailed Nick and said either you need to come here and fix it, or we take out Russia and Belarus or cancel the trip and get a full refund. Nick said he would come to both campuses and take their passport photos, help students fill out the Visas and then process them,” Parillo said.

In April, Reese came to campus and did everything he said he would. Then things started to fall apart.

Reese stopped answering emails, and the Belarusian Embassy told the university that Reese went there to drop off the passports but there was a mistake. He was told to come back the next day and he never showed up.

“I don’t know if things fell apart so he just ran...I don’t know what happened. AU and Carthage got in touch with Nick and confronted him about the passports and visas, and he said he needed to cancel but would give us a full refund if we gave him two weeks to secure that,” Parillo said.

That was in the middle of June. May 21, eight days before they were supposed to depart for Rus-



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Students were reimbursed and passports were given back.

sia, Moser emailed the students that the group was still waiting on the arrival of the passports.

It became clear the trip was going to be cancelled at that point. Students were advised to cancel their passports. Moser and Parillo met with the provost and Steve Hannan to figure out what to do next, and it did not take long for them to decide to reimburse the students for the tour, their Visas and their new passports.

“I am really grateful to AU because there was no hesitation in doing the right thing for the students. Moser also called every single participant personally to tell them the trip was cancelled and what was happening next,” Parillo said.

“I don’t know if things fell apart so he just ran...I don’t know what happened.”

Renee Borcas, one of the students who was supposed to go on the trip, is also very thankful to the university for being very clear and communicating about what was going on.

“It was disappointing enough to get the trip cancelled but to have to worry about losing that large sum of money would have been much

more stressful. I am thankful to the university for making the best out of a bad situation,” she said.

The students did get their passports back, but it was after they had already cancelled them.

Although the students were reimbursed, the school was not. The university has filed police reports with the APD and Carthage College has called Interpol and Scotland Yard, trying to put a warrant out for Reese’s arrest if he ever steps foot in the U.S. again.

Parillo and Moser are working with the university’s insurance pursuing cyber theft and general theft, since the money was wired. Parillo has also been working all summer putting processes in place to make sure this kind of situation never happens again.

“We are going to only use pre-approved providers in the future, and they will need to fill out a 25 question application, be a large and established agency, and have a large amount of insurance,” Parillo said.

She is currently looking at Nationwide for a \$46 policy that would be put into the program price, and it can be triggered by anything from a student breaking their leg three days before the trip to a parent losing a job. It covers a lot but only costs a little.

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