

Juried student art and design exhibition under way at Coburn Gallery

SEAN REPUYAN  
Reporter

The Juried Student Art and Design Exhibition opened March 4 in the Coburn Art Gallery.

The annual exhibition is open to any AU student who has taken a studio art course within 12 months of the exhibition and gives students the opportunity to display artworks professionally and build portfolios as well as resumes.

Within a “normal” academic year, the gallery would typically have around 180-200 student entries from majors and nonmajors alike. Although entries were down, COVID-19 did not change much about the show, according to Gallery Director, Cynthia Petry.

“There is a deadline for the assignments, so that the outside juror can jury the works, with upper level students having more leeway when it comes to creative solutions,” Petry said.

For this year’s gallery, the outside juror, Noah Schrenk from the Mansfield Art Center, made up to 75 selections for the gallery and presented students with artistic feedback.

Petry, who has spent 24 years with Ashland University and 13 years

directing the gallery, spent most of her time with the exhibition on building the schedule, marketing the show and curating the gallery.

“It’s hard work getting it all up,” Petry said. “I’m grateful for all the help I can get.”

On top of the physical installation, Petry had to coordinate the gallery itself with the outside juror and depend on the proper delivery of the work. The final step was getting people to attend and support the arts.

Students taking studio art courses were given assignments that took particular skill sets, however Petry believes the beauty of art is that the students have complete aesthetic and creative control.

“Even though the arts have been hit truly hard with COVID-19,” Petry said. “It’s important for the campus community to understand art and its function.”

Petry believes the gallery plays a vital role as a culture center within the campus community, and the exhibition presents an opportunity for students to support peers and learn to contemplate what they see.

“For artists, we see the world through art, we’re always interacting with it,” Petry said. “Many people say art is not their thing,



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The exhibition will offer \$950 in awards to student artists, including Best in Show, Honorable Mentions, Bernini Award, Dean’s Award, Wink Alumni award, AU Permanent Collection Award and the People’s Choice Award.

I’ve heard it a lot.”

Art is the window for many students and people to be able to express themselves and show themselves to the world, similar to the way a musician, writer or actor would.

Petry concluded with the advice that when you take the time to contemplate it and consider the

imagery and the meaning, it can become so much more important to you.

Alpha Phi to hold annual “Mr. University” event over Zoom

MADISON GRAVER  
Reporter

On April 29, Alpha Phi will be holding their annual Mr. University event, however this year it will be done virtually.

Due to the current health restrictions, it won’t be possible to hold the event in person like it typically is, but Mr. University event coordinator MacKenzie Gray ensures that it will still be just as enjoyable as any other year.

“Everyone’s very excited,” Gray said. “It just gives everyone something to look forward to and something to be prepared for and something to look forward to since we couldn’t have a lot of events we normally have.”

Mr. University is a pageant-like event that recruits individuals from around campus to showcase their talents and individuality. It is broken down into three sections: introductions, a talent portion and a question and answer section. Judges then rank each individual and whoever is chosen as the winner is crowned as “Mr.

University.”

Since the event will be virtual, the 13 participants will pre-record

their sections that are to be played during the live Zoom on Apr. 29. Admission for the event is three

dollars and all of the proceeds will go directly to the Alpha Phi Foundation.

“We kinda do it as a chance to let members of other fraternities and sororities and campus organizations get to know a little bit more about the Alpha Phi Foundation and about what we do as a chapter,” Gray said.

The participants of Mr. University are individuals who were nominated by their respective organizations who thought they would be a good fit for the event.

“Some of them are over the top prepared and are so excited for their events and they just can’t wait,” Gray said. “I think that’s probably the best part, is seeing how excited they are to help us raise money for our philanthropy.”

Alpha Phi President Kayla Neyra is equally as excited for the event and thinks it will be a great way to wrap up the school year.

“I think it’ll definitely be a good morale booster, especially since it’s at the end of April right before we go on summer break,” Neyra said. “It’s just a good way to wrap up the year and have fun with everyone on campus.”



SUBMITTED BY: ALPHA PHI

Members of Alpha Phi alongside Mr. University participants following the event in 2019.

WRDL preparing for another successful Vinyl-thon

BRAYDEN CREVELING  
Reporter

Ashland University’s WRDL radio station will again be participating in Vinyl-Thon, beginning April 17 at midnight and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Apr. 18.

Thirty-three stations will be participating this year, five of which are in Ohio.

Vinyl-Thon is a 24-hour event where college radio stations play exclusively vinyl records for a whole day. The event is hosted by The College Radio Day Organization, and is put on every spring.

WRDL was awarded a gold medal award from the organization three times during 2017, 2018 and 2019 for being able to play vinyl records 24 hours straight.

Derek Wood, general manager of 88.9 WRDL, started Vinyl-Thon at AU in 2017.

Wood thought the idea would “separate us from traditional radio” and be something that “hasn’t been done in this community.”

Wood said many students have an interest in playing vinyl records on WRDL and he saw this as an opportunity to get students



EVAN LAUX

During Vinyl-thon, college radio stations play exclusively vinyl records for 24 hours.

involved. Wood admitted he was nervous starting it out, but is very happy with the success the station has had with the event.

Niko Scarlatos, sports director and host of Early Birds Word, said he was exploring new things such as a DJ shift and wanting to get involved when he stumbled across Vinyl-Thon. Instead of being a vinyl collector like Wood, Scarla-

tos said this is where he “learned everything about Vinyl.”

“I’ve learned so much about vinyl being in the studio during it” Scarlatos said. “Whether I was working with Derek or other guys in the studio at the same time as me. It’s really cool to learn the history of these older records and how they work.”

Scarlatos encourages freshmen

or students who haven’t participated in Vinyl-Thon to get involved.

“This is a great way to get your voice on the air while also having a fun time” he said. “I think this is a good first step.”

Wood also emphasizes the importance of experience when talking about digital media students and journalism students getting involved.

“I just think it helps people explore the realms of possibilities when it comes to unique radio stations like WRDL that are non-commercial ” Wood said.

Students and alumni are encouraged to bring in their own vinyl records for the event.