

'Recurrence' comments on repetition in the arts

By Jenna Salisbury - Jan 28, 2016

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Juan Honojosa's piece "Spider Crest, 2015" is one of many works on display in the Mandeville Gallery. The exhibit features the works of six different artists and a multitude of creative styles, mediums and messages (Courtesy of Jenna Salisbury)

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016, a reception was held in Mandeville Gallery in honor of its newest exhibition, "Recurrence."

The exhibit features six artists and 22 works of art, each one a unique visual representation of repetition.

On the Mandeville Gallery website, Curator of Art Collections and Exhibitions, Julie Lohnes explains, "Historically, an artwork was considered a masterpiece. One of a kind. But then artists such as Degas and Monet skewed that view when they began producing work serially and repeating the same themes or motifs."

Showcasing the works of six artists, including Kira Nam Greene, Juan Hinojosa, Simone Meltesen, Karen Schiff, Sam Vernon and Rachael Wren, "Recurrence" delves into the various interpretations of the meaning of repetition.

The pieces include a multitude of different mediums, including oil and watercolor paintings to collages.

Two of the six featured artists, Juan Hinojosa and Rachel Wren, attended the evening reception.

"I use things I literally find on the street," Hinojosa said. "For instance I find photos in photo-booths that people will just leave behind because it takes a little while for the photo to develop and print."

Hinojosa's work revolves around scavenged materials and creating installations and collages out of these items.

Materials include crushed Coca-Cola cans, Metro cards, and hard drives.

In his artist's statement, Hinojosa adds, "I, like most Americans am conflicted with consumerism, and these works are a result of my own bad habits, desires and greed."

Rachel Wren displayed a couple of her oil on linen pieces, titled, "In Step" and "Outlook" as well as a watercolor piece called "Untitled."

In her artist statement, Wren explains: "My paintings use geometry to structure ephemeral atmospheric and natural phenomena ... I am intrigued by moments in nature when air has a tangible presence, almost becoming visible- fog playing between tree branches, light peeking through clouds, the darkening sky before a thunderstorm."

Other featured works included Sam Vernon's 3D installation, "Self Portrait with Twelve Boxes."

The piece combined paintings, Xerox drawings and various props and sculptures.

Vernon expressed in her artist's statement, "through site-specific, staged installations and urgent performances, my goals are towards the productions of Gothic visual art in which Black narratives are included in the expanse of the genre."

According to Kira Nam Greene's artist's statement, her paintings and drawings, "negotiate the duality and dichotomy of my existence as an Asian immigrant woman in America."

The exhibit displays the acrylic on unprimed linen prints of New York City based artist Simone Meltesen.

With these works, Meltesen looks to "explore lesbian feminist formalism."

Karen Schiff's graphite, ink and charcoal drawings "Field Notes" and "Midnight Field" have "many semantic meanings," per her statement.

She explains. "Many of my choices derive from my study of the geometric patterns in the backgrounds of medieval illuminations."

"Recurrence" opened on Jan. 2 and will remain on display through April 10, 2016.