

Painting is only a bridge linking the
painter's mind with that of the
viewer
—Eugene Delacroix

PSH Announces Spring Art Exhibits

The first art exhibits of the year at Penn State Harrisburg feature the works of popular regional artists.

The mixed-media work of Lancaster's Teri Traner is on exhibit through March 29 in the college's Gallery Lounge while the art of Lebanon's Gretchen Heinze Moyer and David Moyer are on display through March 30 in the Morrison Gallery of the campus library.

Traner's show, entitled "Recognition and Connection: Life Experience as Art," investigates interpersonal relationships and gender construction as they are informed by our contemporary culture.

Her work was most recently exhibited at a solo show entitled "Eclectic Collage" at the Central Market Art Gallery in Lancaster and is also a part of the permanent collection of the Lancaster Museum of Art. Traner's work has also been shown recently at Lebanon Valley College, the Demuth Foundation Gallery, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, the Art Associations of Lancaster and Harrisburg, and Elizabethtown College.

Traner received an MFA in Visual Art from Vermont College of Norwich University, Montpelier, and a BFA in painting and printmaking from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. She has done post-graduate work in Commercial and Fine Art at the York Academy of Art.

A reception and gallery talk with the artist is scheduled for Thursday, March 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. Penn State Harrisburg Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Gallery is closed Saturday and Sunday.

The title of the Moyer joint show, consisting of wood engravings by David and

mixed media on paper by Gretchen, is "Black & White and Color."

Gretchen received an MFA from the University of Delaware in printmaking and museum studies and a BFA from James Madison in drawing and painting. She received the juror's award from the Mid-Atlantic Open Juried Exhibition in Bethesda, Md., and has most recently exhibited her works at the College of Medicine at Hershey and the 9th Juried Exhibition at Elizabethtown College.

A co-founder of the Red Howler Press, publishers of hand-printed, limited editions and other artists' books, her work has also been shown at the Giacomo Leopardi Bicentennial show in Paris, France, and at Gallery 110 in Plymouth, Wis. She describes her works as involving drawing, incising, combining mixed media, and the use of color, and considers the use of color a driving force in her work.

David earned an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and a BFA from the University of Delaware. His wood engravings have been exhibited internationally as well as at the University of Wisconsin's Alvium Museum, Wells College, and at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif. He is also a noted contributor to the Red Howler Press.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Penn State Harrisburg Morrison Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Gallery is closed Saturday and Sunday. A special reception for the artists will be Monday, March 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Morrison Gallery.

For questions regarding the exhibits, contact the Penn State Harrisburg Office of Student Activities at 717-948-6273.



"Nature/Nurture" Mixed media on wood by Teri Traner.

"Last Touring Company"

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In the tradition of vaudeville, Dr. Robert Scott, chair of PenOwl Productions and PSH faculty member, introduced the performance by giving away gold coins to a lucky audience member. He explained that tradition involved the giving of gold teeth, but that no one wanted to part with any for this performance. Scott also explained to the audience that the performance was in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The story was told by character Robert Washington to his grandson, Fortune Washington. The acting troop recreated Washington's childhood meeting with the Anderson, Hagan, Miller, Whipper Touring Company when they stayed in his mother's hotel. The hotel was one of the few that allowed African-Americans in Philadelphia in the 1940s. This theatre company was dubbed the "Last Touring Company" because all other vaudeville acts had disappeared.

The colorful characters gave a comedic yet educational performance. Characters included Mrs. Hagan, the overzealous mother of child-prodigy singer, Baby Bootsie; a somewhat forgetful and confused woman, Maisy Miller; her reassuring husband, Martin Miller; and Marita Anderson, a young heartbroken beauty.

The PSH audience watched as the characters rehearsed for their show. Baby Bootsie and Marita Anderson sang while the elderly Millers performed comedic skits. Slim Whipper and Slimmer, an authentic wooden doll, attempted a ventriloquist act. "I am the beauty, you are the brains," Slimmer concluded in his skit with Slim.

An energetic and vibrant musical num-

ber opened the performance. The cast of 10 filled the room with the sound of traditional 1940s music. Austin Howard, the manager of the acting troop, performed an up-tempo tune as the self-proclaimed "King of Vaudeville" to a clapping, enthusiastic audience. The finale included a reprise of the opening number with energetic dancing from the cast members.

Reactions to the performance were positive. "I thought the play was great," and "She really did a great job" were just a few of the remarks overheard at the conclusion of King's production.

Damon Walton, a PSH student majoring in sociology, enjoyed the performance. "It was very interesting. There was a lot of history presented in the play," he explained. Walton felt King portrayed many of the lesser-known facts about African-Americans in the music business and all the hardships they had to struggle with being a black person in America.

Louise Morgan, PSH instructor of communications, was delighted by the performance overall. Being a playwright herself, she shares a great appreciation for the theatre. "I was happy to be in the audience, supporting her. She did a great job," Morgan raved during the reception held after the performance.

"It was just like we were back in time in the hotel lobby," said Aimee Morgan, daughter of Louise Morgan. "I learned there were different restrooms, different hotels for black people back then."

Lisa Hake, a young friend of Morgan's, said it perfectly: "I learned that black people were treated unfairly." Hake proved that through this performance, King's message was heard.

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