

# 50 students, one work of art

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By now, everyone has passed through Stacks Market and noticed that the couch and chairs are missing and in their place, a collection of blue and white squares is arranged neatly on the floor. These squares are more than just artwork. They are a collection of artistic statements from 50 different people.

Craig Welsh, instructor of art and communications, designed this art installation to commemorate the University's 150th anniversary and incorporated it into his fall Art

10: Introduction to Visual Studies classes.

Two classes of 25 students were each given six squares and limited instructions to create three different versions, one of each color. The first set had to be covered with any type of fabric, the next set had to be a flat surface. The final set of squares was open to any type of texture. There are 300 squares total. Some of the media used include Fruit Loops, chain, stones, spray paint, faux fur, and corn kernels.

"I don't think I've ever seen, in any area of study, where that many students contributed to something that is so outwardly expressed," said Welsh

With the help of his mom, Welsh installed the piece on April 10 in Stacks and it will remain there until April 24, the end of Penn State's annual Blue and White Week. The piece is appropriately named 'Blue and White 150.'

Welsh's students impressed him as they completed this project. While Welsh did not tell the students what he intended to do with the squares as they were making them, he was pleased that his students put so much work into this project on blind faith.

"One student even wove the fabric into a pattern and I was glad to see that they saw the value of taking that time to make

really good," said Welsh. "Many of the students had never been in a fabric store before and now they had to go pick out a fabric themselves," he said. "It was interesting because they knew that what fabric they picked would say something about them and got them thinking."

Welsh also allowed the students to choose the arrangement of the squares. Both classes decided independently of each other that a random arrangement was most aesthetically appealing, so he installed the squares as the students suggested.

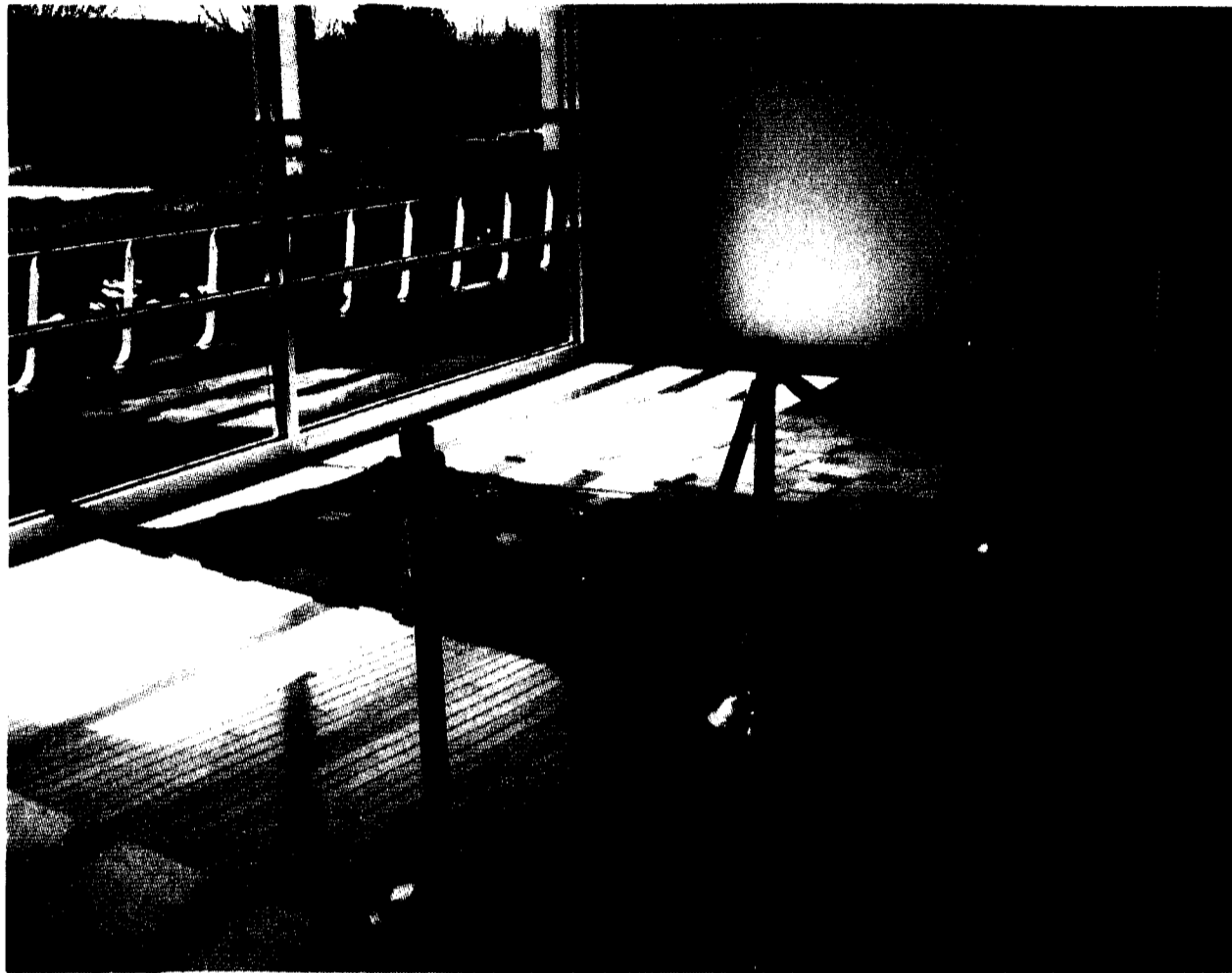
'Blue and White 150' was originally to be displayed on a wall, but the weight and the logistics were an issue. "It turned out better than I expected," said Welsh. "I love the idea of a floor installation because it gives it a different perspective, a change of terrain."

While the squares are very tactile and almost beg to be touched, Welsh said the squares are very fragile. "I wish they could touch them. I want to touch it even when I walk by," he said.

Stacks Market turned out to be the best place for the display due heavy traffic and the lighting. Stacks added the ropes to protect the piece from those who wish to touch the squares.

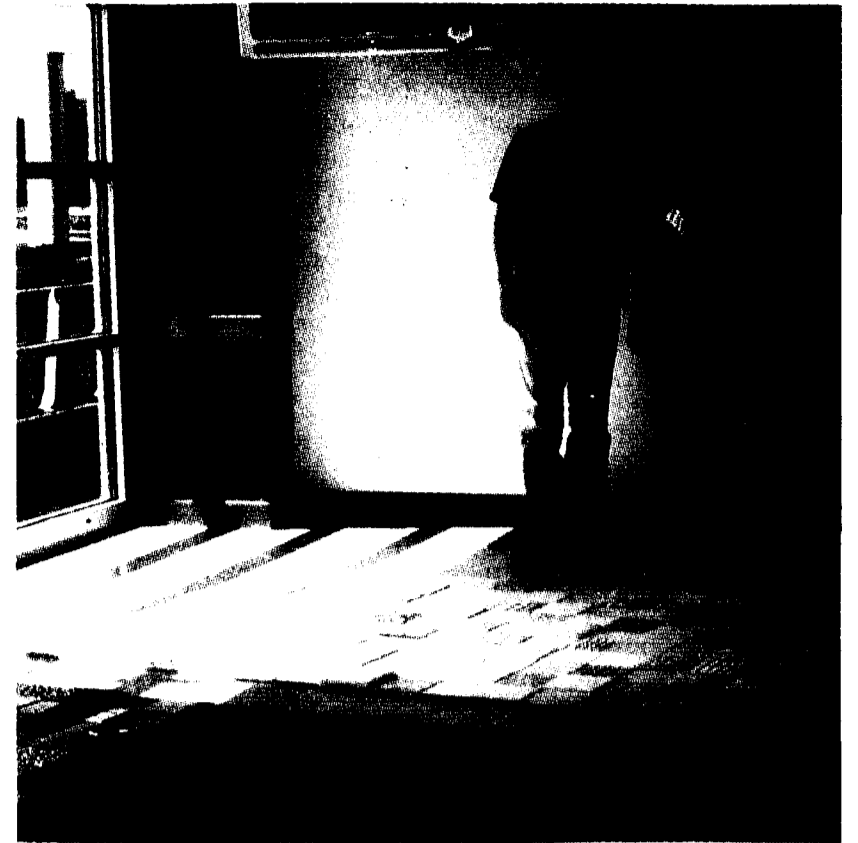
The students are able to see the reactions of others and gain from the feedback. "The coolest thing for me is to think back to the students in the beginning of class and see how productive the students were and how far they have come," he said.

Welsh hopes to have 'Blue and White 150' displayed at University Park. "I think it would be great to have life from this campus invade life on that campus," said Welsh. "UP needs to know that students at this campus are just as critical to Penn State as a whole and that they are a part of what makes Penn State."



Photos courtesy of Craig Welsh

**Blue and White 150; Mixed media on Homasote. This art piece was made by Craig Welsh and his art students to commemorate Penn State's 150th anniversary.**



**Mother and son, Craig and Virginia Welsh teamed up to install the 300 blue and white squares in Stacks Market.**



**Craig Welsh arranges the 150 blue squares on the floor. Welsh hopes his next installation will be at University Park.**

## Three new television networks seeking gay and lesbian audiences

By David Bauder  
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Three new TV networks catering to gay and lesbian viewers are trying to establish themselves and all say they support one another - at least publicly.

Competition breeds interest and shows doubters the business is viable, said Frank Olsen, president of the Q Television Network. He once applied the same theory when he owned four gay and lesbian bars near each other in Seattle.

"I think there's room for all three of us," said Olsen, whose network is the underdog of the trio. "We're different types of channels, just like you have ABC, NBC and CBS."

Sure to be the most visible is MTV Networks' Logo, scheduled to start as a basic cable network on June 30. Q and Here are both pay services operating now and available to a limited number of viewers.

The gay and lesbian community has been underserved by the media and these channels are long overdue, said Damon Romine, entertainment media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"There's definitely an audience out there that is hungry to see their stories being told," he said. "We've seen this with the tremendous success of *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word*."

Logo has two original series that will be ready this summer. One is "Noah's Arc," about a black gay screenwriter from California and his friends, and the other is "My Fabulous Gay Wedding," a comic makeover reality show.

Otherwise, Logo will rely heavily on movies and documentaries until it is better established. Logo has acquired the rights to films

such as "Angels in America" and "Moulin Rouge," and has documentaries about a gay rugby team in Chicago and the gay rodeo circuit.

"It will be programmed to the sensitivity of a basic cable audience," said Nicole Browning, president of MTV Networks' affiliate sales and marketing unit.

Logo's ride to reality hasn't exactly been smooth. It spent years on parent company Viacom's back burner, and already has seen its starting date postponed from February. This year's delay was partly to get more programming in place but was also because it only had agreements to be in 2 million to 3 million of the nation's nearly 110 million television homes.

Browning was quoted recently as saying she had found some resistance to the idea of a gay and lesbian network in meetings with cable or satellite providers. One executive threatened resignation if Logo were launched in the company's territory. She downplayed that in a subsequent interview.

"While there may be some initial trepidation, once they really understand what we're doing, the breadth of the audience and the breadth of the programming, they understand there is a great business opportunity," she said.

She said Logo will begin in 10 million homes, a significant percentage of the roughly 45 million homes with digital service. Logo isn't trying to reach analog homes.

Political trepidation is one of the reasons Paul Colichman, Here's CEO, believes his business plan is superior. Interested viewers can subscribe to Here full time, for an evening or for individual programs.

"Unless you want the channel, you don't receive it," he said.

Colichman claims ownership of the largest gay and lesbian film library in the country, with such titles as "The Crying Game," "Longtime Companion" and "Gods and Monsters," which he produced. He has original series on gay families, how gay couples met and a supernatural soap opera called "Dante's Cove."

"Look at HBO and Showtime and what they do and compare it to a basic cable channel, and that's where you will see the difference between Here and Logo," he said.

Roughly 80 to 85 percent of homes with digital satellite or cable can order Here, he said.

But Browning noted there's a big difference in visibility between an advertiser-supported network like Logo, which will be seen continually in millions of homes, and a subscriber service whose audience is likely to only count in the thousands at any given time.

Q is aggressively marketing itself but, to date, is only available on the small RCN satellite service. Olsen said it would be available in 16 million homes by June. Olsen concedes his rivals have shut him out of the market for many films.

It has a documentary series, "In FoQus," which is preparing a tribute to Elizabeth Taylor, and a morning talk show which recently changed its name from "Good Morning Gay America" to "Gay Day" after representatives of ABC's "Good Morning America" threatened legal action, he said.

When Viacom announced it was going ahead with Logo, Olsen said he started getting phone calls from cable companies returned.

"Having a company like Viacom validate the niche automatically made the concept of a gay-oriented channel more viable," Colichman said.

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