

'Malapropic' exhibit displays humor, misreading

By Alaina Gallagher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Books that take on the identity of people and puns based on historical figures are just some of the literary references employed by graduate artist Salvatore Schiciano.

These works can currently be found in Schiciano's graduate thesis exhibit entitled "Malapropic" on display in Zoller Gallery through Feb. 22.

At a reception for the exhibit, held on Monday night, some friends and students gathered to view and admire Schiciano's work.

A portion of the show displays Schiciano's series of "Facebooking" portraits. Schiciano said the series drew upon his early inspirations of texts and he chose to use them as a new method of illustration.

"The whole irony of it being associated with Facebook was accidental," he said.

Each portrait features a figure whose identity is somehow overshadowed by a text. In "Joe's Metamorphosis," a

woman's face is replaced with a smiley face emoticon printed on a book cover. Her head is highlighted with a bright yellow background, while the rest of her body appears to be shrouded in gray.

"I love the literary references, his recurrent use of themes of the book," said Matt Snyder (senior-sculpture). "His skills as a painter really comes across; it's pretty developed which is nice to see."

In another portrait, entitled "Joe's Metamorphosis," a lavender background frames a man sitting with a book and a variety of objects including a spring and an arrow. The objects completely obscure his identity, while his body becomes steadily more blurry and a large shadow stretches to the top of the painting. Schiciano said he collaborated with a sculptor to create the apparatus held on his model's face in "Joe's Metamorphosis." The result is an "oddy and curiosity" that people find within the portrait, he said.

"Basically, I find it really representational but expressive. He can abstract his own work — it just

changes how we are going to see how these literal representations," said Donelle Clark, a former student of Schiciano.

The idea of misreading is a staple of the show, he said.

The possibilities that come out of misrepresentation are something that fascinates him, Schiciano said. Schiciano's series of puns, in which he took iconic photographs and punned their ideology, is also on display.

In one entitled "You kiss your girlfriends with that mouth?" Charlie Chaplin, silent film star, curses in a speech bubble.

"Humor — that was basically his biggest lesson in class — trying to find humor in your own work," said Cook (junior-art).

He said he hopes viewers can find their own discoveries in viewing his work.

"It's so much more satisfying if people figure things out on their own," he said. "I would rather consider my audience participants rather than just viewers."



Courtesy of Salvatore Schiciano

"Joe's Metamorphosis" is one of Salvatore Schiciano's pieces currently on display at the Zoller Gallery. The display acts as his thesis exhibit.

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