

THE HYDE ART GALLERY

BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST
PHOTOS BY MOLLY MORANZ AND ASHLEY STOUT

Grossmont College's Hyde Gallery showcases everything from student work to international pieces. It is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The next exhibition at Hyde Gallery is "The Student Art Exhibition," which is open to the public May 9, and will run until the 19. Alex DeCosta, the new Hyde Gallery Technician, shared why he believes students should take the time to stop by: "It's a great place to contemplate your day, since it's really relaxing."



Student submissions featuring
untitled photo by Jessica Aldaba

DeCosta also described the gallery as a "place of zen," where students can come on their break to de-stress and see quality art. "Also, there's air conditioning," he added.

Despite the obvious appeal of the gallery, DeCosta explained an underlying problem. He said, "A lot of people think you pay to come in here. The gallery is completely free and open to the public.

We really get no foot traffic. Students already pay tuition to come here, so of course you'd get to come in for free."

Alex DeCosta, who is originally from Ellicott, Maryland, followed in the footsteps of his great grandfather, who was a landscape painter. "I grew up with his paintings all over the house," he said. "Art was something my parents wanted me to do, so I started taking classes growing up."

DeCosta got his BFA at the School of Visual Arts in New York, with a heavy concentration in sculpture. From there, he worked several different galleries in the state, before finally interning at the New York Foundation for the Arts. "I finally moved to Southern California to be closer

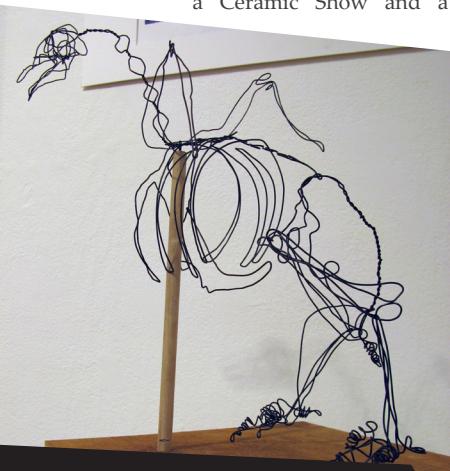
to family," he said. "I was in New York for eight years, and I needed a change of pace. After college, I was non-stop working. I did freelance for a while, before finally settling into this job."

When asked what he wants to work on next semester, DeCosta said, "What would be really beneficial to the gallery would be things like social media presence, and outreach programs on campus."

DeCosta also wants to resurrect the art council, which is a governing body that helps set up fundraisers for the gallery, and source artists for shows. This would involve a full-time faculty consisting of the art department, student representatives and people from the San Diego art community. "It's ultimately a student's gallery," he said, stressing the importance of student representatives. "I want them to be able to come to me with proposals for exhibitions."

DeCosta would like to have more high profile art shows, with collaborations between Grossmont and other art institutions in San Diego, even sourcing artwork from farther away. "I think we can increase the amount of exhibitions we have every semester, by slightly shortening current exhibitions," he said. "From there, we can have shorter turnaround times between exhibitions and then squeeze in more stuff."

For certain, DeCosta plans on having three big shows come fall—a Faculty Show, a Ceramic Show and a



"Chicken Wire" sculpture
by Safari Fabrizio



Alex DeCosta
Hyde Gallery Technician

Student Art Exhibit. Since he said he plans to shorten the length of each exhibit, DeCosta also expressed interest in doing a two-week pop-up mini exhibition, and a silent auction that could pull work from acclaimed artists. This type of event would include a dinner, and work as a fundraiser for students. The proceeds would go to scholarships and awards for recognized Grossmont artists.

When asked about the importance of art in our campus, he said this: "One thing that's hard for people to understand about modern art and contemporary art is that it's all about the application of materials or the process by which we make objects.

"If you get into the habit of educating yourself on how to make objects, you start to appreciate more the objects that have already been made. You can also visualize the world in different perspectives," DeCosta said.

To better appreciate art and see the world through a student's perspective, visit the Hyde Gallery. It is located at Building 25, in 200 Main Quad. It will not be open for summer break.