

ARTFUL DISPLAY

The Faculty Art Exhibit showcases the personal work of Grossmont's art instructors.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MORGAN RAY

Thomas Merton once said, "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

Through Nov. 7, students and campus visitors will be able to do both amid the works of art at Grossmont's 2017 Art Faculty Exhibition. Take a walk through the gallery's halls, and you will find works that run a diverse range from painted sceneries to serene sculptures, from salt encrusted canvases to sanitary napkins.

Jennifer Bennett, artist of *Blackscape*, the aforementioned salt canvas, said her inspiration for her piece came from "investigating various natural healing modalities such as crystal power, chakra energy, and surrounding myself with pink salt lamps.

"Since I also like to surround myself with art, I thought it would be an interesting experiment to create works of art that contain these magical healing properties," Bennett explained. "I've embedded crystals in encaustic paintings in the past, and I mixed Himalayan salt into the paint of these pieces."

As for other mediums, Lisa Medlen's handmade jewelry takes its inspiration from Celtic garments and the coast of Ireland:

"I used stones of all types...that spoke about Ireland itself— mostly referring to the great natural beauty there—the stone, the grasslands and the sea," she said.

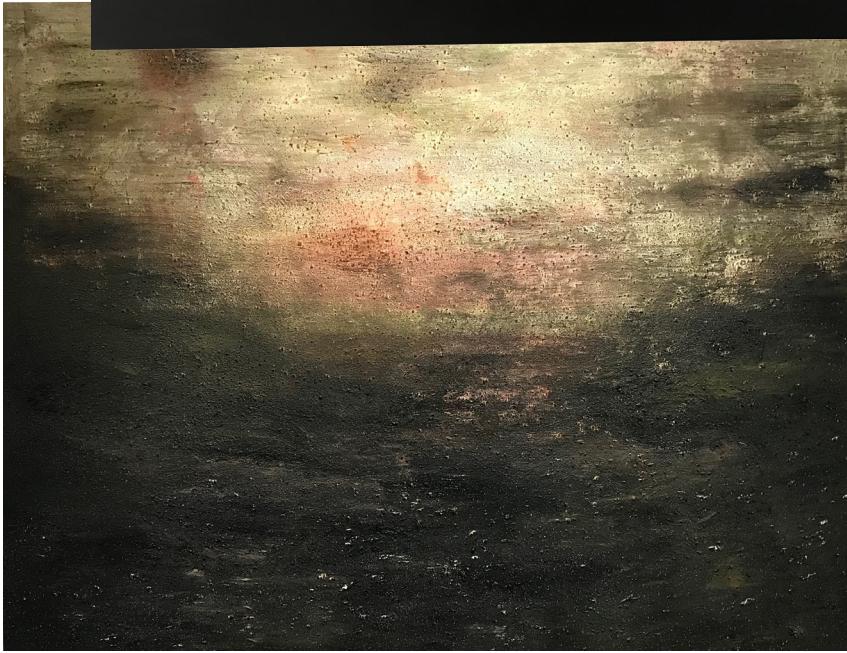
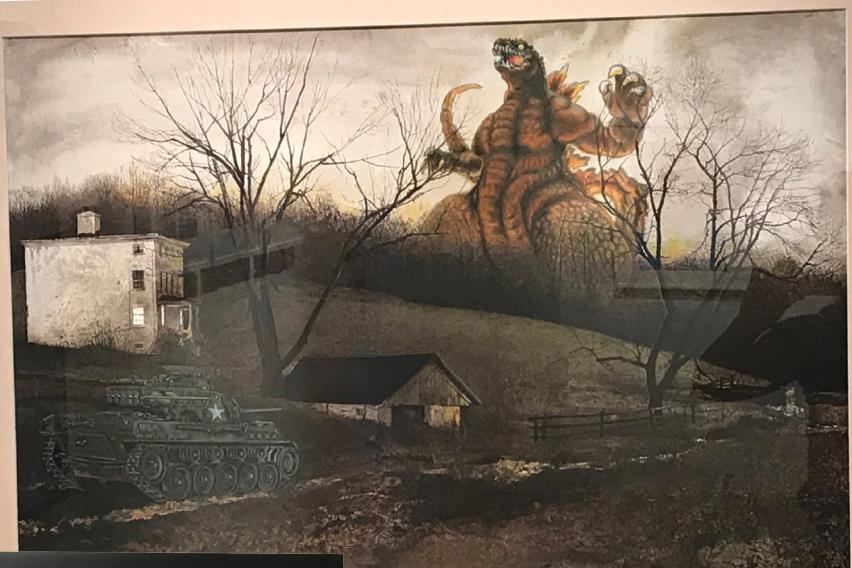
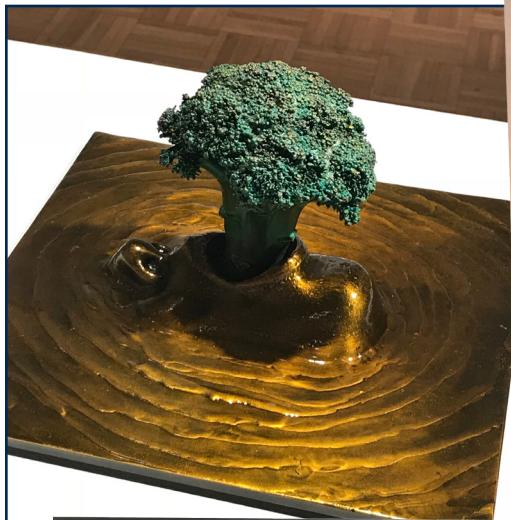
While they may be aesthetically pleasing, the wide variety of works speaks to many of the issues plaguing society today, from the blight against nature to the ongoing struggles facing women today. One such work, *Fawn Trophy* by Jeff Irwin, speaks to the former.

"I have created a series of white tree-like animal trophies to honor the fragile beauty of nature," Irwin said. "This body of work speaks to human manipulation of nature and our need to idealize that manipulation. White as a color or absence of color reveals the subtle contours of the forms and evokes a sense of simplicity, clarity and spirituality."

The Hyde Art Gallery is located in Building 25. It is open Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Fridays by appointment only. Visitors are required to purchase a \$2 one-day parking permit at a vending machine located in any parking lot. The gallery's next exhibit will be the Student Art Show, running from Nov. 20 through Dec. 8.



Fawn Trophy by Jeff Irwin



Clockwise from Top: *Ophelia While She Was Sleeping* by Jim Wilsterman, *Monster Squad* by Tom Lazzara, *Pectoral* by Lisa Medlen, *Icelandic Evening* by Bill Mosley, *Blackscape* by Jennifer Bennett, *Dragonfish* by Jeff Kahn.