

# Thesis exhibition shows best of student art

Natalie Dupuis  
Reporter

At the end of their time at Elon, senior art majors put their collection of work, and themselves, on display for the public to view. In the Arts West Gallery, students held a public reception for the public on April 17 and briefly explained their works that were hanging on the walls.

Some students focused their work on autobiographical depictions of special moments in their lives while others creatively portrayed a recent passion, but all the work was a blend of a personal interest and social commentary.

The show is another step in the process for the seniors to finish their final project as Elon students. It is the culmination of years of work and development for some students, and all of them had to successfully defend their thesis to a board of mentors and professors. Following individual final defenses, students also give brief presentations at the exhibition, as well as formal, more-lengthy presentations later in the semester.

Art professor Michael Sanford explained that each student is assigned a faculty mentor who helps guide the student's work so it is cohesive and complete. But each student comes up with his or her own concept.

After time for the audience to take in the artwork, the student artists discussed the exhibits, explaining their inspiration behind the process of the work and what the desired impact of the art might be.

The display "Perceptions of Beauty" by artist Lauren Warr, was an interactive project that involved the photographs of more than 50 women. The artist deconstructed those pictures by facial feature and then allowed the public to create its version of a beautiful face selecting from the features from all fifty girls. The final product was a wall filled with portraits of what the public chose as beautiful.

"Advertising produces



Sophomores Rosie Towchik and Evan Glass view art at the Senior B.A. Arts Exhibit in Arts West. The exhibition showcases the senior theses of art majors.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

notions of beauty that have changed through the years that show beauty to be very trendy, while other studies have been done that show there are specific things, like symmetrical features, that everybody is attracted to," Warr said. "This work is dealing with how much of what we think is attractive comes from what we naturally find attractive and how much of it comes from what advertising and the media tells us is attractive."

Another artist, Andy Hassan, said he was trying to "blur the lines between realism and the virtual gaming world" through his work "Collateral Damage" that showed where weapons are produced, and satirized the glorified notions of using them.

"I hope to raise questions about the issues of violence and how they are perceived in our society," Hassan said.

Other work by students Chase Brannock, Diana Ciompi, Kyle Eaton, Sean Jeffcoat, Natalie Saragusa, Meghan Stevens, Summer Thaxton and Kyle Waggoner included displays of many different mediums. There was



Lauren Warr presents her senior thesis art project "Perceptions of Beauty." Each image is made of a user-generated mash-up of facial features from more than 50 women. Warr said her project was meant to question what we think beauty is, and why.

BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

photography that lampooned social and racial stereotypes, painted and prepared

equestrian boots, interactive displays with decaying flowers and landscapes of Elon, videos

of high-adrenaline activities, and edited photographs of "threshold consciousness."

## Student comedian combines humor with over-the-top stories

Kassandra Cloos  
News Editor

Delightfully, innocently obscene.

That's how junior Jay Light describes himself and his stand-up comedy routine. As one of Elon University's few student comedians, Light said what he thinks aims to catch people off guard.

"It's all about surprising people," he said. "If there's no surprise, there's no joke."

Light opened for comedian Jim Tavare April 14 in Whitley Auditorium to an audience of dozens of students, one of the best shows he said he has ever done. His content, which was often raunchy, ranged from personal sexual experiences to the card game Magic: The Gathering.

While many of Light's jokes toed the line between funny and going too far, he said people liked his show for the most part and are often surprised at how different he acts in real life.

"My mom thinks I'm too dirty," he said. "People are surprised. I'm not that dirty in everyday life, usually."

In his "regular life," he keeps to himself and is pretty quiet, he said.

"I like having that contrast," he said. "I like to be relaxed, to not be 'on' all the time. I don't need to be."

But even when he's writing jokes, Light said he's cautious and stays away from topics he knows he could

not pull off.

"It's not necessarily a line, it's more common sense," he said. "I'm not the kind of person who could pull off a rape joke. There are some comedians who could pull it off, but not me. I'm suited for more personal stuff, like sex and drinking."

All of the personal experiences Light references in his routine have actually happened, he said, including the sexual endeavors that make up a large portion of his show. He said he tells people ahead of time when he writes jokes about them and, to his knowledge, no one has ever been angered by them.

"There's a fine line I've got to walk," he said. "There's humor in things and I want to bring that out."

While the comedy community at Elon may be small compared to those at other schools, Light said he can't be the only person interested in comedy and wants to get more students involved. Recently, he has been looking into starting a club that would serve as a support group for aspiring comedians to practice improvisation, joke writing and stand-up technique on one another before going on stage.

Light tries to do at least one show a week, he said, since the only way to get experience is through performing. His target audience is young adults — and the bigger the audience, the better.



Junior Jay Light had the opportunity to open for comedian Jim Tavare. Light is more risqué in his show than in life.

TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Once, he said, he performed at an open mic night in his hometown in Texas for a crowd of six people.

"It was pretty bad," he said. "Everyone was afraid to be the only one to laugh."

With a larger audience, Light said it's easier to gauge the perception of his jokes, which lets him know which ones need more work.

With two and a half years of experience down, Light is about a quarter done with the 10 years it takes most comedians to find their voices. He hopes to end up in Los Angeles one day, he said.

As for what type of comedian he'd like to be?

"I just want to be a good one," he said.