



Photo courtesy of BC Media Relations

Brevard College student Joshua Cole's photo, "Kadeem in Manhattan," won Best of Show in the College's 2015 Juried Art Exhibition.

After recent evacuation of Sims Art Building, student's juried art show to continue as scheduled

By Sam Blakley
Editor in Chief

Despite recent evacuation of Sim's Art Center building because of fumes from a portable heating unit, Juried Student Art Exhibition is continued to open as scheduled. The show opens on Friday, Feb. 19, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. and runs Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through March 24.

BC President David Joyce said in an email addressing the campus community the afternoon after the evacuation that part of the exhaust pipe on the heating unit became misdirected overnight, causing the exhaust fumes to be directed at the building rather than away from it. The Maintenance Department responded to address the equipment issue, and the Brevard Fire Department responded to check the air quality in the building.

"A slight amount of carbon monoxide was discovered, however, at the time it was checked, the level was determined to be far below what is considered dangerous," said Joyce in his email.

On Jan. 15 the boiler, which provides heat to the art building, failed beyond repair. The department had been using portable heaters rented through the Physical Plant to continue holding classes to the best of their ability.

"I remember the night before the temporary boiler was installed," said Megyn Terrell a junior art and business double major. "The graphics lab was so cold we let out early. It was as cold inside as it was outside."

Feb. 11 another email was sent from the office of the President saying that though fumes in the building were still strong, there was no carbon monoxide in the building anymore. That same day a new boiler was installed on the roof.

These updates were made less than a week before the art opening. The evacuation did not alter or otherwise affect the scheduled event, because of the perfectly timed boiler installation.

Juried Student Art Exhibitions occur every spring semester. These juried shows are required for art majors, but open to all students. These shows allow students to submit original pieces of art in a variety of mediums.

"Last year's best of show was Joshua Cole's photograph," said Sam Edwards, work-study for the Art Department. "But, senior Camille Cameron is doing a mix of painting and collage work that is fantastic. I'd check her stuff out."

This semester submitted works include drawing, painting, photography, graphic design, and sculpture in wood, metal, and clay. Students are judged solely on their work, and there

are no categories. The juror, who judges the submissions and awards prizes, is not made aware of the students' name and information or grade level.

"We have an independent juror come in from outside of Brevard to judge the show and select winners," said Anne Chapin Professor of Art History and Archeology. "It's a big deal for the art program."

A member of the local art community, Kevin Hogan, from Asheville, will jury this spring's exhibition. Hogan is nationally and internationally known for his work in North Carolina and France. He has extensive experience in the development of galleries and museums, and he is currently serving on the Board of Trustees at the Asheville Art Museum.

There are six cash prizes and a student choice award. The prizes range in value from \$100 to \$25. There will also be President's Choice Award and Laura McDowell choices, Division Chair's Choice award, but art students say they get excited about the student's choice award.

"Just please come and vote for student choice," said Edwards. "That one is always the most fun because it's what we, the students, think." The gallery will be open early for students to vote on Thursday, Feb. 18 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.