

# Art show in Vardell displays faculty talent

by Donna Sammander

The September 17th opening of the Faculty/Staff Art collections show in Vardell Gallery was a success. There is still time, until September 27th, to see the pieces on display, contributed from the collections of our faculty and staff. But if you did not attend the unveiling of the show to its audience, you missed the magic of seeing people discover (and rediscover, in the Contributors' case) these objects of curiosity, mementos of travel, childhood and friendship.

As people toured the duskily-lit gallery, munching on grapes, cheese and crackers, many lingered to focus on points of interest. English Professor, Ted Maier, lifted his Equadorian pan flute from the wall and put it gently to his lips in demonstration for the students who surrounded him. Here and there, fingers were lifted in inquiry, chins were stroked and eyes widened with sudden insight and admiration toward the paintings, textile and sculpture on display.

Lined against one wall were a series of "Eloise" books from the collection of Ann Kurtzman, director of Communications, who, along with Professor Margaret Houston, and Ran Xiaoqun, Professor of Chinese sat gracefully on the carpet turning the pages. Students mused over Professor Bushoven's volumes of Found Poems, poetry that was created by selecting book titles from a library card catalog.

As one of the crew who set up the show, under the direction of Professor

Stephanie McDavid, I was thrilled to see our labor and frustration rewarded by such interest and curiosity in the final display.

To prepare a gallery for a show and then to set the show up is a process apart from welcoming folks to its opening night. When Professor McDavid first pushed open the gallery door, a week before the show, patchy grey walls and plastic-covered floor confronted us. So we pulled the nails from previous exhibitions and plastered the crumbly patches and holes in the wall. The next day, we rolled paint onto the repaired wall surface- all the while wearing black garbage bags for protection. Finally the walls refreshingly clean in their grey paint. There was, however, little time to exult. As soon as the walls were dry and the paint less odorous, we were hammering and nailing so that Vardell echoed with metallic thuds and, occasionally, squeals of pain over a hammered thumb.

Since the gallery walls, from ceiling to floor, measure almost eight feet, we calculated eye-level distance from the ground up and pinned string along that point on all walls. Underneath the string and tilted against the wall were the paintings and hangings which we arranged and arranged side by side according to colour intensity, size and gut feeling. With such an eclectic collection of work, ununited by either make

or style, we had to consider each piece as it complemented its neighbor and put it in a place. For its length and pure white background, we hung Professor Mel Bringle's Oriental banner alone on the first panel of wall. A motif of similar colours unite the wall throughout the pieces, building toward greater intensity of colour. Please compare the tinge of magenta on the banner to its full blast in Professor Margaret Houston's Guatemalan Huipiel on the same wall.

Please take notice of spacing and painting/sculpture placement as well in a gallery. A floor can look cluttered, and a wall crowded without consideration of

an object's size in relation to its neighbor. In the case of the above-mentioned wall, we hung each painting on the eye-level line but centered them according to the one preceding it. This might seem like a pain-staking process, dependent on mathematical calculations and requiring an endless shifting of pieces to fit space. Perhaps it is. But we were able to set up the show very decisively.

The Faculty/Staff Art Collection is the first of more shows to come to Vardell Gallery. Themes for future shows were being generated at this one's opening so keep watch for them.

## Encore does it again

by Kate Brady

Encore theater company has long been producing shows, musicals and plays in SAPC's "LA Auditorium." The productions provide both the outside community and SAPC students with oppourtunites to get involved in theater. Casts have varied, including young children and experianced actors. The shows are varied enough to have something for everyone.

Last spring's production of "The Wizard of Oz" was directed by Senior Chris Swain. Recently, Encore has concluded a production of William Gibson's "The Miracle Worker, which ran from Sept. 6-15.

Auditions have just been completed for Timothy E. Locklear's musical review "An Enchanted Evening" to be staged at the end of October. Theis show iwll include music from Rogers and Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Disney music for the children.

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