

Elon's latest art exhibit is 'Off the Wall'



Jeff Heyer / Photo Editor

"Pictured above is the work titled, "She managed everything but her life," by Ginger Spangler.

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Ryan Howard
Reporter

An exhibition of wall-mounted sculptures titled "Off the Wall" is now on display in the Isabella Cannon Room in the Center for the Arts. Elon students will have the opportunity to view sculpture created by North Carolina artists until Oct. 2. Students who spent all their money at the poster sale last week need not worry, "Off the Wall" is free. The exhibition will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to the public.

An opening reception was held Monday night from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Artists were on hand to discuss and answer questions about their work.

One of the most eye-catching pieces is Jan Chenoweth's "Heart Series," a display of small, colorful heart sculptures that cleverly depict well-known clichés. "Cold hearted" is a silver heart with nails stabbed into it, "heartland" is a heart with a simple landscape painted on it, and "heart attack" has small cowboy and Indian figures facing off on top of the heart. The display is also slightly unconventional. The titles of the individual hearts are written in pencil directly on the wall, with arrows snaking over from the name to the heart.

Chenoweth usually works with concrete and steel, and said her work is not generally representational. Many of the hearts on display she created specifically for this exhibition. Chenoweth said she enjoyed the departure from her usual medium.

"I started to think of all the different things you could do with hearts. I was just having a lot of fun," Chenoweth said.

Several students found Roger

Halligan's "Superior Model" interesting. It was a stone slab constructed of fiber reinforced cement over polystyrene which Halligan said is "basically styrofoam." It is painted vibrant red and yellow and letters from a Dodge truck have been placed to spell out GOD 150 inside. Next to it is a brief newspaper article about the Catholic Church stating that its beliefs are superior to all others.

"I think it means that God can be anywhere or anything, no matter how simple," sophomore Leslie Mumme said.

Junior Melanie Neal was sketching one of Carolyn Owen's sculptures titled "Medallion #5" for her Drawing I class.

"I'm really drawn to the pattern," she said. "Even though it's really jagged and angular, it still has a circular shape. I'm just very interested in patterns."

Owen designed the sculptures so that when lit, they would cast shadows on the wall in interesting patterns. She wanted to create something that normally is not thought of as being a wall decoration.

"We think of walls with paintings that are square, so this is a little different," Owen said.

Mike Sanford is the curator of

the exhibition. He, as well as most of the sculptors with works on display at this exhibition, is a member of Tri-State Sculptors.

"I wanted to bring sculpture to Elon," Sanford said.

The problem is that the Isabella Cannon Room is often used for meetings and other events, so no freestanding sculptures can be placed in the middle of the room.

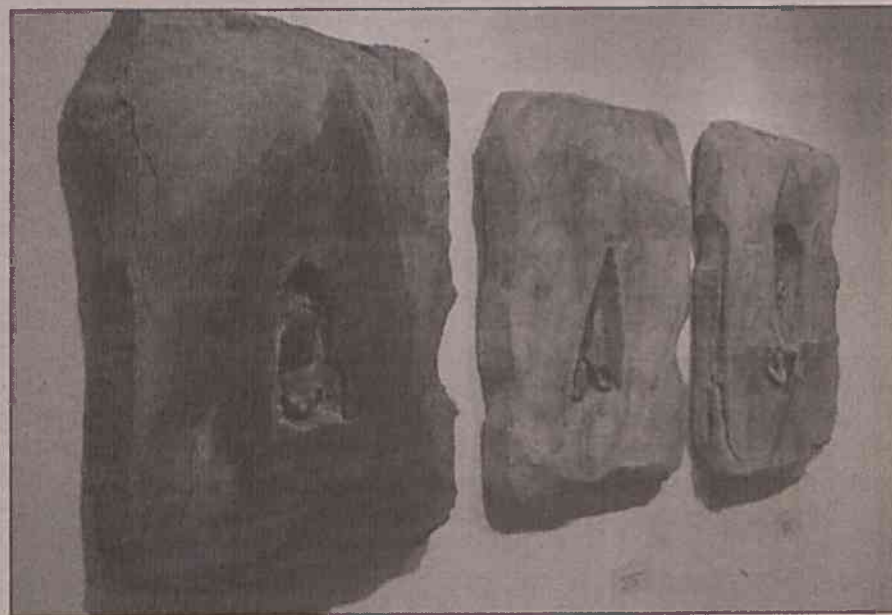
"We have a gallery that has a limited exhibition possibility," Sanford said.

His solution was to display wall-mounted sculpture around the room. That way the floor space is still available for use, and students can still come and see the artwork.

The result of Sanford's efforts is the "Off the Wall" exhibition. It features works by the aforementioned artists as well as Juan Logan, Kristin Gudjonsdottir, Dawn Stetzel, Ginger Spangler, Mark Brown, Greg Shelnut and Michael Fels.

"I just wanted to put something together that's fun and varied," Sanford said. "Something with tremendous variety."

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The above works are currently on display in the Isabella Cannon room until Oct. 2 as part of the "Off the Wall" alternative art series.