

ARTS &

Meredith Alumni Art Today

Kristen Gallagher, Staff Writer

In the Johnson Hall Rotunda, over sixty works of art from former Meredith students hang unperturbed by the snow. Except, that is, for their unveiling – the exhibition was scheduled to open with a reception on January 31st, but due to the recent dumping of snow, it was cancelled. Due to open again on February 28 at 2 o'clock, the Alumnae Art Exhibition is sure to please – I've gotten a little preview and I don't mind sharing with you. Granted, I only passed by most of the works in the Rotunda, but I can tell you that the show is sure to awe art enthusiast and passerby alike.

The exhibition is a retrospective of Meredith Alumnae art, attempting to emphasize the importance of art at Meredith College since 1891. Lining the inside walls of each of the three floors, the art you'll see comes in many forms: there are photographs, oil and acrylic paintings, textiles, mixed media works, sculpture pieces, drawings, and more. On one pedestal even stands a beautiful metal pendant necklace. Perhaps what struck me the most was the sheer amount and variation of talent, theme, and content

present in the show. The works present stretch from an alumnae of the class of 1932 and all the way up to a 2009 graduate. Intended to show the growth and evolution of the art department, the show certainly shows what beautiful ability can come through Meredith hands. There is sure to be something that will interest you at the show, whatever genre you like. The art ranges from realistic to abstract and everything in between. Some of the works show life years ago and some portray imaginative concepts one would never have thought of, giving the show a truly rounded approach. There are works that comment on childhood, race, emotions, culture and daily life.

To help you get a more thorough understanding, all artists have included a statement about themselves and their work. Through the statement, one can see how influential the Meredith art experience was and has been in the artist's life. You can see how art was not always the path well traveled for these women, but it was ultimately where they turned to express themselves.

So if you've got the time, drop



a view of the Alumni Art exhibition, photograph by Kristen Gallagher

by Johnson Hall to check out the art, and don't forget to walk up the stairs; there is more on each level. I'd have to say that this show is one not to miss – so don't worry about finding money for a ticket; this show is free and will be hanging until April. Feel free to bring your

friends and perhaps your parents – wouldn't it be cool if your mom knew one of the artists when she went to Meredith? Just think, that could be you in couple of years.

Ask Gigi

Dear Gigi,

I was so excited for my best friend to come home from studying abroad in Italy last semester, but now I'm just annoyed. She mopes around and acts depressed about being home, and when she's actually in a talkative mood, she starts all of her stories with "This one time in Italy..." or otherwise brings up her study abroad experience in every conversation. Now our friendship is crumbling. Do you have any advice about how we can reconnect? I miss the way things used to be.

Sincerely,
Frustrated Friend

Dear Frustrated Friend,

It's hard to go back to exactly "the way things used to be" after being away from each other for so long. What your friend may not realize is that when she went abroad, life didn't stop for either of you. She may seem self-absorbed in her recent international experience when she brings it up all the time, but chances are that that's just her way of genuinely trying to bridge the uncomfortable gap: bringing you into her world by relating whatever you say to an experience she had in Italy that you couldn't physically share with her. So start sharing stories of your own when she brings up Italy! Assuming she's still interested in strengthening your bond, she is sure to enjoy your stories as well as appreciate your efforts to catch her up on everything she missed back home.

Yours truly,
Gigi

What's Up In Raleigh

- Winterfest Ice Rink: \$6/person, Sunday, February 14: Sledding Ramps and Carriage and Rick Shaw Rides
- Artspace Figure Study Exhibition: January 30 – February 20, 2010
- Winterfest Ice Rink: free skating lessons, Mon thru Fri 4-10pm/Sat 11-10pm/Sun 12-5, from 12 noon-5 pm
- 20th Annual African-American Read-In: Authors, leaders, and students read from works by their favorite African American writers at the Capitol for the 20th annual National African American Read-In. Feb 21, 1-3 pm.
- NC Museum of History, Barbie at 50 Exhibition: free admission at the museum downtown.
- Irregardless Café: Nightly Live Music, 6:30-9:30
- A Taste of Downtown Raleigh Gourmet Food Tour: Saturdays 2-5 pm, www.tastecarolina.net for more information
- Hi5 Bar's Annual Anti-Valentine's Day Party: Feb 14, 6pm-2am, \$5 dinners, make a reservation: 834-4335
- RBC Center: The Black Eyed Peas and LMFAO: Feb 19, tickets variable, check out www.rbccenter.com for more information.
- RBC Center: Michael Buble Tickets on sale Feb 5 for July 9 concert
- Raleigh Flea Market: Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 6 pm at the Fairgrounds