

# Art exhibit draws connection between stereotypes, biases

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

At a place in time where the country seems to be more divided than ever, local artist/photographer Owens Daniels is literally using a rope to tie together the different struggles and biases people face on a daily basis.

On display at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art, Daniels' exhibit entitled "Common Ties That Bind," includes several

of the images the rope is spilling out of the canvass onto the floor. When discussing the exhibit with The Chronicle last week, Daniels said the rope represents the different forms of bias and stereotypes that are placed on people every day.

He said he based his work on the idea that America has a history of prejudging and labeling individuals, oftentimes just because they're different. And the rope represents

sentence, it's a judgment, that's what the rope is," Daniels said.

When visiting the exhibit, Daniels said he wants the public to understand that our struggles with stereotypes and biases such as race, identity, religion, and others is what ties us together. He said, "The trials and tribulations tie us together; we all experience it and that gives us a common thread to connect."

"The idea is to connect and respect each other's differences, not just as a group, but individually. That's what I want people to take away from this, that idea."

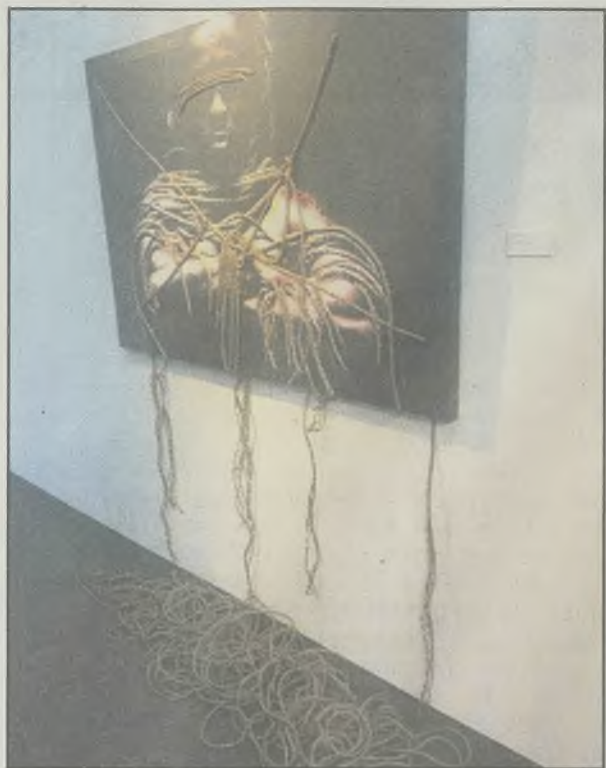
Sawtooth Center for Visual Art Executive Director Amy Jordan said what she likes most about the exhibit is that it forces you to ask questions.

"The first thing it does is make you ask questions and for me that's a true sign of a good exhibit," Jordan said. "I think Owens did a good job of demonstrating how we are bound by ourselves and others. And this makes us look further into that and as community, that's essential."

While encouraging visitors to ask questions, Daniels' exhibit also marked a historic moment for SVA. Common Ties That Bind marked the end of Daniels' year-long residency, making him the first African American artist in residence at the Sawtooth. Jordan said over the years working as a photography instructor, Daniels has become part of the Sawtooth

those labels and stereotypes.

"The rope itself is only indicative of a criminal. You hang criminals. It's a



Owens Daniels' exhibit *Common Ties That Bind* will be on display at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art until August 23.

images of men and women from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds intertwined in what seems to be the same rope. In some



Models featured in Owens Daniels' exhibit *Common Ties That Bind* during a reception held at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art earlier this week.

family, so when he started discussions about a residency it was a no-brainer.

"He's been here in so many different capacities it's just wonderful that it has come to this. It just seems natural," Jordan continued. "Because I've known Owens for so long,

it just seemed like a natural progression."

Daniels said to know that he is the first African American to hold a residency at Sawtooth makes him feel honored. He said, "It makes me proud to know that we had an opportunity not only as an in-

dividual, but as a people."

Common Ties That Bind will be on display at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art, 251 Spruce Street, through August 23. For more information on the exhibit or The Sawtooth Center, visit <https://www.sawtooth.org/>.

## Quality Independent Living delivers book bags for the homeless

JUDIE HOLCOMB-PACK  
THE CHRONICLE

Quality Independent Living (QIL) recently held a week-long bake sale (see article in the July 11 Chronicle, "Local Senior Apartment Community to

idents of QIL, along with Director Annette Nichols, delivered 30 book bags to Bethesda Center for the Homeless. Delores Little, the front office manager of Bethesda Center, thanked QIL for the donation and said that it will help the

the residents really got into the Bake Sale for Book Bags project, knowing the needs of the homeless, but added, "We felt like it was a bigger blessing for us to be able to serve."

They plan to use the



Left to right: Patricia Meinhart, Robina Bowden, Donna Brown, and Annette Nichols of Quality Independent Living give a donation of 30 book bags, the result of their recent fundraiser, to Delores Little of the Bethesda Center for the Homeless.

hold 'Bake Sale for Book Bags.'") They not only met their goal of raising \$300, but exceeded it, raising a total of \$500. On Friday, August 2, several res-

homeless to keep up with their possessions and keep them from getting lost or wet when it rains.

Patricia Meinhart, a resident of QIL, said that

remaining funds from the bake sale for another project. Quality Independent Living is located at 5068 Lansing Drive.

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