

BC3's spring Student Art Showcase a brush with the abstract

April 4, 2019



From left, Butler County Community College students Vanessa Eberle, of Butler; Maryna Boychenko, of Cranberry Township; Casey Cardone, of Saxonburg; and Ethan Eberle, of Butler, are shown in BC3's Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on Monday, April 1, 2019, with their 4-foot by 3-foot dirty pouring painting. BC3 students Avery Bean, of Valencia; and Crystal Kerchersky, of Butler, also helped to create the piece that is part of BC3's spring 2019 Student Art Showcase.

(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College's fourth Student Art Showcase since fall 2017 features 44 works and, for the first time, skews heavily toward the abstract, according to the curator of the Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery.

"This show," said David Ludwick, who is also a BC3 fine arts instructor, "is not as traditional as the others and does not have as much realism as we have had in the past. In other shows, there were a number of traditional and realistic pieces, especially landscapes. And while we do have some realism, we do not see that as much this year."

Students in drawing, and in introduction to painting classes, taught by Ludwick on BC3's main campus in Butler Township and by David Todd at BC3 @ Cranberry in Cranberry Township created the works.

Graphite, pencil and charcoal sketches, jewelry, and acrylic and water color paintings ranging in size from 1 foot by 1 foot to 4 feet by 3 feet are among the pieces on display in the Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on BC3's main campus.

Six BC3 students – Vanessa Eberle, Ethan Eberle and Crystal Kerchersky, all of Butler; Maryna Boychenko, of Cranberry Township; Casey Cardone, of Saxonburg; and Avery Bean, of Valencia – worked to create one of seven abstract dirty pouring paintings whose colors span the palette and whose interpretations are as colorful.

“It kind of looks like you are looking out a window in the rain at a Mardi Gras celebration,” Ethan Eberle said of the 4-foot by 3-foot piece the group created.

Added Vanessa Eberle: “I see a dragon coming from the bottom right.”

And Boychenko: “It kind of reminds me of cloud watching. I feel like every time I look at it I see something different, a little area that will be a different shape.”

The dirty pouring technique, Ludwick said, begins with students mixing acrylic paint and glue in 6-ounce foam cups. The cups are turned upside-down on a horizontal, blank canvas.

“The paint and glue,” Ludwick said, “start to spread.”

Coconut oil or baby oil is added to the spreading mixture from droppers, and the globules are then flame-brushed across the canvas by students waving a small propane torch.

“That,” Ludwick said, “causes a reaction, which creates the design and the pattern.”

Designs and patterns were also captured by Kerchersky in her two other dirty pouring paintings. The showcase also features dirty



A dirty pouring painting created by Butler County Community College student Crystal Kerchersky, of Butler, is shown in BC3's Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on Monday, April 1, 2019. The painting is part of BC3's spring 2019 Student Art Showcase.



A dirty pouring painting created by Butler County Community College student Casey Cardone, of Saxonburg, is shown in BC3's Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery on Monday, April 1, 2019. The painting is part of BC3's spring 2019 Student Art Showcase.

pouring paintings created solely by Cardone, Ethan Eberle, Vanessa Eberle and Kylie Negley, of Butler.

BC3's spring 2019 Student Art Showcase is on exhibit in BC3's Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays through April 23. A reception for the student artists will be held from noon to 2:30 p.m. April 10 in the gallery.