

Getting inspired

SIX STUDENTS AT CSU-MONTEREY BAY CREATE A BRIDGE FOR ARTISTS IN AND OUTSIDE OF THEIR CAMPUS

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When you enter the arena of CSU-Monterey Bay's Inspiration Festival, you will first find a tree, of sorts, one that has been reconstructed out of limbs and pieces that came down in January's big storm.

It seems a fitting metaphor for what the six students that make up the Artists' Collective, the group behind the fest, are trying to do. All the pieces are there, they just need to put them together in such a way that's fluid and recognizable.

The Collective is out to redefine artistic expression with a little help from social change and cross-cultural awareness. The festival is intended to build a link between campus and community.

"It's been difficult to get any kind of positive information about what people think about our school," said Theresa Juran. "We don't have the right exposure, and we're out in the middle of the Ord."

Juran and her fellow Artists' Collective members are seniors in or graduates of CSUMB's Visual and Public Art Department who want to help highlight the "public" part of their program's name.

They have invited sculptors, poets, jewelers, tattoo artists and more from the community to join in a celebration to broaden the notion of what art is and bridge the campus with the Monterey Peninsula.

Saturday's event that will take place in the University Center. A pre-party gets going at 6 p.m.

ARTS EVENT

- **What:** CSU-Monterey Bay's Artists' Collective presents the Inspiration Festival
- **Where:** University Center, CSUMB campus
- **When:** 7 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Feb 23
- **Tickets:** Free and open to the public (pre-event party at 6 p.m. \$10 at the door)
- **Information:** 402-2465, www.myspace.com/artistscollectivemonterey



Sculptor Yves Goyatton's "Untitled 2," which will be part of CSU-Monterey Bay's Inspiration Festival, a celebration to broaden the notion of what art is and bridge the campus with the Monterey Peninsula.

and things start in earnest at 7 p.m.

The theme is Mardi Gras. Beads and masks will be provided should you forget your own.

There will be displays of multi-media work, interactive art installations, a children's art competition and a fashion show.

Professors Stephanie Johnson and Umi Vaughn will display their work in sculpture and photography in honor of Black History Month. Local bands will perform. Music and dancing continues until midnight.

Collective member Madeline O'Neill is in charge of "the living room." Attendees can walk into this living painting where the furniture is covered in paint and anything movable is fair game to be rearranged.

"It's sort of a visual play on art

challenge people's idea of what art is." They are planning on posing the age-old question "What is art?" with a canvas at the ready where people can write down their answers.

They will photograph people and video-willing participants about their stories — embarrassing moments, art-related thoughts — it's open.

Juran met sculptor Yves Goyatton at the Carmel Art Festival last spring where he earned "Best in Show."

"I was really interested and honored that she thought about me to display my work (at the Festival)," said Goyatton, who will have a solo show at the PG Art Center in July.

"I think this event is very positive for the image of the university and it's a great opportunity for the community

connect with each other."

Goyatton's creative curiosity resides in how people interact with their constructed environments and, consequently, in the meeting of human and abstract forms.

When presented with the possibility to exhibit at the CSUMB festival, Goyatton took from the top.

"I thought about bringing my best work which, for me, is my latest work."

The Inspiration Festival is actually a Capstone for four of the students, their final project for graduation. "We're kind of breaking the barriers for what they're expecting for Capstones," stated Juran.

With graduation looming after just four years and cycles of students behind them, most who will drop in for an equally brief stint, is it realistic to talk about connecting to the community?

"Everywhere you go in the world people are going to start to have to make connections," said Juran, who admits it's a challenge to get students involved in such projects. If they take the time to connect, Juran said, it allows us to "keep things strong and make change."

Social responsibility is a big part of CSUMB's mission. The university is a forerunner in service learning — tying academics with needs in the community.

Each student must complete specific courses that include service learning work in the region.

The group is trying to create an endowment in order to be able to hold the festival annually.

More and more student work is creeping out into the world beyond the campus, for example, as featured work in Sand City's annual West End arts celebration, but there is a long way to go.

"It's sad sometimes when I say 'I'm a VPA major,'" said O'Neill. "They're like, 'Oh, wait. CSUMB has an art program?'"

"I just want the Monterey community to see that CSUMB does have great things coming from it," said Juran. "We can make things happen."