

Senior student brings solo exhibit to campus

By Leslie Brettschneider
Collegian Writer

Nate Mucha hasn't studied under the masters. He has never taken professional art lessons at a fancy studio. In fact, his technical training is limited compared to many artists. Take one look at Mucha's artwork, however, and you would never know.

Mucha, a senior hailing from Parma, Ohio, currently has an exhibit titled "The Seven Deadly Sins" on display in the art gallery of Pew Fine Arts Center.

The exhibit includes four different artwork series: "Blossoms," "Russian Crosses" and "The Four Seasons," all created using silkscreen; and "The Seven Deadly Sins", created using woodcut, a unique art form.

Woodcut, which involves carving a design into a block of wood, covering the raised area with ink and using pressure to apply the design to paper, is one of the more time-consuming art processes. It reveals Mucha's passion for his artwork and this exhibit especially.

He estimates that he spent almost fifty hours making the seven woodcuts and around eight hours making the prints from them. In addition to the art itself, Mucha frames all of his own works. He said he spent close to fifty hours framing all of the pieces.

It was time well spent for this art aficionado.

Mucha's love for creativity started early in his life – when he would take crazy things to preschool for show and tell – but his talents were most developed in high school. With the help of John Schwartz, a teacher at his school, Mucha "developed a love and appreciation for what art should be about, not just how to do it."

His love and appreciation are evident when Mucha talks about his work. Mucha said that his greatest desire is for his art to be hung in the home for everyone to enjoy.

"Art is not just a thing. It means something, and it makes life better," he said.

The seven deadly sins may seem like an unlikely topic for everyone to appreciate, but Mucha and his independent study adviser, Dr. Joshua Drake, disagreed. Mucha explained that



Joshua Hutton

Mucha's artwork in PFAC.

most great art throughout history has had some religious influence.

His desire to do something unique and with a lot of history was fulfilled by his depiction of the seven sins.

The seven deadly sins have been featured in art previous to Mucha's exhibit, but his still remains unique. Drake points out that Mucha's series reaches into the area of abstract art rather than representative art.

"In abstract art you don't have to talk about a particular manifestation of the sin. You can talk about the sin itself in a chemical purity that you can't use in mere allegory," Drake said. "I think [Mucha] is probably one of the first people to address the subject in formal abstraction."

Despite the fact that his art is

innovative, refined and professional, Mucha remembers his days as a novice and offers this advice to the beginning artist.

"Keep working. Don't get discouraged," he said. "I think a majority of people could be very creative artistically and otherwise. If you can write well, you can draw well because you have the skills of making the forms."

"You need to see artwork. Arts are an important part of education no matter what you're studying – if it's engineering, if it's business – you need to be in tune a little bit visually, especially in a world where everything is graphic," Mucha said.

The show will be open until Nov. 10.

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