Some works that students can explore at the 25 Years of Paintings from Rock Fragments exhibit in the Bart Luedeke Center Art Gallery are (from left to right) “Dark Stone Map,” “Night and Day,” “Walpack Fossil” and “Variations of a Rock.”

## Painting a successful picture

**By Kat Blazowski**  
**Staff Writer**

Art enthusiasts are milling about, snacking on refreshments and chatting quietly, at the Bart Luedeke Center Art Gallery. Artist Joseph Fiore stands among his paintings as the people around him study his exhibit, *25 Years of Paintings from Rock Fragments*.  

The gallery will be open from March 7 to April 2.

The exhibit is held up by the many artists as well as the learning atmosphere surrounding him.  

“I was like a sponge, soaking up everything that came along,” he said.  

Fiore also spent many years as a teacher at various schools, including Black Mountain College, Philadelphia College of Art (now University of the Arts) and Maryland Institute College of Art. He has picked up many awards over the years, including the Andrew Carnegie Prize in 2001, which recognizes painting.

“I think he’s a really important painter. [I found] the ideas behind his painting really intriguing and exciting,” said Naar. “The opening reception last week attracted professors, students and others interested in art.”  

When Fiore is not working on his art, he enjoys reading and listening to music (Bach and Haydn are some of his favorites). He also enjoys live performances and plays the piano. He is married with two children, a son and a daughter.

At his reception, Fiore stands near the refreshments table twisting his empty plastic cup in his palm as people approach him about his work. He points out certain paintings on the wall as he talks, illustrating his stories. Fiore may come across as timid and quiet on the surface, but from the expressions of those observing, his paintings have a lot to say.

The Joeceh Fiore: 25 Years of Paintings from Fragments gallery will run through May 7.

## Naar delivers the art

**By Haley Ross**  
**Design and Layout Manager**

“He, NAAR, Fine Arts,” the door reads, wide-open, welcoming visitors. This is typically how you will find the professor of fine arts, teacher, husband, father and artist Harry Naar, who is a lover of jazz music and all things art.

Soft-spoken but enthusiastic, Naar has a supportive and friendly demeanor about him.

“Professor Naar is a great teacher,” said senior art student Andrea Daney. “He always supports each student individually while encouraging us to test our creative limits by thinking outside the box.”

Naar, is known for getting students interested in art in an unconventional way, such as throwing candy out to students who correctly answer questions in introductory art courses. One of his goals is to further students’ education about the arts as well as expose them to different types of art styles.

As an artist, Naar favors landscapes and still life paintings. He has won many awards, most notably the Best in Show Award at the Ellarslie Open XXV, an exhibition showcasing talent in the area. He is also listed in *Who’s Who in American Art*.

A resident of Lawrenceville, Naar is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Art with a masters in fine art from Indiana University. He has also studied with the distinguished French painter Jean Hélios in Paris.

His work has been displayed both nationally and internationally, including the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, Johnson and Johnson, Bristol Myers-Squibb, the Boca Raton Museum of Art and the USSR Artist Union Gallery in Moscow.  

His art is currently on display at an invitational exhibit at the University of Nebraska and will be featured at Fairleigh Dickinson University later this month. All are landscape paintings.

“I have always been interested in art,” Naar said. “I don’t come from a family of artists, so it was a combination of natural talent and some really great teachers who inspired me.”

Naar came to Rider in 1980 and soon after arriving became involved with the Cultural Affairs Committee. Naar, along with his colleagues, expressed interest in the idea of starting an art gallery. Soon after the Rider University Art Gallery was formed, Naar was appointed director.

The gallery has come a long way since its infancy in the early 1990s. As director, Naar has gathered a collection of pieces from artists’ whose donations are scattered around campus.

In the admission’s office or President Mondechel Rozanski’s office located in the bottom of the library, there are a few pieces that make up the estimated $1.5 million collection, Naar said.

“Rider’s art collection has one of the best temporary art collections in the area,” said Naar.

Naar is solely responsible for all the gallery’s activities, including finding appropriate artists to feature throughout the year, keeping a good working relationship with artists and the University, making catalogs and setting up the shows.

“I’m interested in selecting work that is high quality, but also not the most common,” he said. “Because this is an educational institution it is important to expose people to a wide spectrum of tastes.”

Naar chooses artists based on slides sent to him, but showcases also have featured people he has known. For example, Joseph Fiore, the current artist featured in the gallery, was a former teacher of Naar’s at the Philadelphia College of Art.

Fiore’s collection is of abstract representational experiences-25 years of rock fragment paintings are hung from earliest to the most recent, which is not traditional.

“This exhibit is different in that it is set up so the viewer gets a sense of evolving,” said Naar.

The process for creating an exhibit takes a couple months, depending on the size of the art and how complex the pieces are.

The gallery is focused toward students and is also open to the public. It has a reputation to both artists and art enthusiasts from all over the region. According to Naar, this is due to the quality of the shows.

“The space that we have and the kind of the exhibitions that we present is really high quality,” he said.

He hopes to expand the gallery in the future and display Rider’s extensive art collection for all to see.

“The gallery is an important learning tool and I’d like to see it where it really plays a role in developing students’ education,” he said.