

Student Center Art Gallery pays tribute to the work of Rosemarie Beck

By Lacey Korevec
Features Editor

Looking for interpretive art work? Search no further than the Student Center Art Gallery. On Thursday, March 27, Rider opened its doors to the work of Rosemarie Beck, a renowned representational artist.

Professor Harry Naar, who is also director of the University Art Gallery, had a large hand in bringing the exhibit, which is in the midst of a nationwide tour, to Rider.

"This exhibition came out because Rosemarie Beck is considered one of the important representational painters who grew out of the '40s and the '50s," he said. "One of the important aspects of the gallery is to present exhibitions that are meaningful and valid in terms of not only who is being exhibited but also what kind of impact it can have on the community and on the University."

Many of Beck's paintings are representational of literary myths, and according to Naar, this has worked very well because it helps students who are studying myths to connect literature with visual arts.

"For most of my students, looking at art is a new experience because they're not really art majors. For the most part, they're liberal arts majors," he said. "One of the most important aspects of an art gallery in a liberal arts institution is to create an environment where students can relate from one focal point to another."

Dr. John Hulsman is another professor who encourages students to visit the exhibit, which he described as not only wonderful work, but timely as well.

"It fits perfectly with Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, the great Roman mythology that Harry Naar and I are using in our current Honors seminar on painting and literature," he said. "Beck does fascinating contemporary takes on, for instance, the Orpheus myth, on Icarus's ill-fated flight and on Acteon and Diana. We are able to juxtapose her work with those of Titian, Rubens, Poussin, and other masters."

According to Hulsman, Beck was



"Studio," a self-portrait from the exhibit is just one of the many paintings students observed of Rosemarie Beck's.

very pleased to hear about how her work is being used here, and there is possibility of her donating one of her pieces to the University.

"Our students have been looking at Beck paintings for months now on PowerPoint, so it was great when the paintings were finally hung a few weeks ago and they could finally really 'see' her striking art," he added.

"An Artist's Talk," in which Beck had planned to visit Rider and discuss her work, was set for Thursday, April 10. Unfortunately, Beck was unable to make it so Catherine Drabkin, a close friend and former student of hers came to speak on her behalf.

In front of a recent self-portrait of Beck and dressed in an outfit embroidered by the artist herself, Drabkin read letters written by Beck about art and artists that captured the essence of what she would have said in a lecture of her own, had she been well enough to attend.

Drabkin spoke highly of her mentor's work and said that her "amazing gift of bringing emotions into art," made her works unique.

"In Rosemarie's work, we see an uncanny ability to cook up anything and make it look fresh as though we are seeing it for the time," she said. "Upon looking at her paintings, it is somehow transformed."

Students work to create photography club

By Melissa Borotto
Staff Writer

Some may think of photography as a mechanical act—a focus, click, flash and wind—but the reality is that photography is not mechanical at all, but a fluid love affair.

The passion that goes into capturing the scope of emotions that comes with life, the grace, pain, happiness and struggle, belongs to the true art of photography.

A group of photo-snapping junkies is campaigning to start a photography club at Rider in order to share and talk about photography.

"It is important for Rider to have a photography club because people really love pictures," said Melanie Spence, who is lobbying for the photography group to be recognized as an official club at Rider. "There is most likely a photography club at every university or college you go to, so it would be great for Rider students to have that opportunity."

The idea of the photography club would be to allow any Rider undergrad to meet with fellow students who share the same interest in photography. The club would provide an open forum where members can share techniques and methods, as well as allow for critiques and suggestions of pictures, said Spence.

"The club would be a way for people to compare their own work and factor in different types of techniques, go out and try them, and come back and compare results," said Kristin McGowan, photo club enthusiast.

To date there has never been a recognized photography club on campus and the new group of students feels that it would be important to have one so that they can have an outlet for photography exploration as a way to enrich their lives as well as the campus community, said McGowan.

"There isn't a whole lot of exposure for photography here at Rider because there are not a lot of classes for photo, mostly computer photography," said McGowan. "Having the club would

be a learning experience with a group of friends and without the class structure."

The club is a way to bring photography enlightenment and involvement to campus. The group is still in the early stages of ideas about what they would like to do as far as different activities, but there are some promising ideas, such as having a photography show in the Student Center. The student photographers would also like to pursue taking pictures at local events in the community to help raise funds, taking pictures for *The Rider News* and the yearbook, covering sporting events at Rider and taking off-campus field trips, said Dr. Drew Proccacino, faculty sponsor of the future photography club.

"We also intend to create a hands-on learning environment, while providing photographic services to the University community at large," said Proccacino.

The photography club would require no experience, just a voracious admiration for photography. No particular equipment is necessary however, the future club is interested in working with digital cameras and exploring the cutting-edge photography devices that are flowing into the market.

"We would like to provide a creative outlet for students, while teaching members to become more proficient in both traditional and digital forms of photography," said Proccacino. "The club also seeks to document the Rider experience on-and off-campus."

Future members find the idea of a photography club exciting and intriguing, causing many of them to continue spending their free time seeing the world behind a camera lens, freezing time into the pictures that they take. Photography is a way to have a visual memory of life and a photography club on campus could only help to preserve the life and times at Rider.

"The club will be a way for people to come and express themselves through the photos and express their passions in life," said McGowan.

FLAG makes noise with 'Day of Silence'

By Dana Lynn Flatekval
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Not being legally allowed to marry, give blood or adopt are just some of the injustices being faced by lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender (LGBT) people everyday. Rider's Friends of Lesbian and Gays (FLAG) took its first step toward fighting these injustices by "A Day of Silence."

"We live in a heterosexist privileged culture," said FLAG member Kyle Zack. "They [heterosexuals] never have to worry about telling someone about their new boyfriend or girlfriend, but we do."

According to Zack, in Daly's, information for the silent protest was disseminated and silence continued throughout the day. Tiny pieces of paper were handed out by the members of FLAG that stated their reasons for this protest. According to Zack, it's no secret anymore that gay and bisexual people exist.

"Even if you don't know someone directly, you've seen them or know someone who knows someone who might not even be out," said Zack. "If you don't do something then that is an injustice to someone you

care about."

The passive nature of the silent protest, according to FLAG member John LoGrasso, brings attention to the problematic situation without harming anyone.

"It helps you realize people in leadership positions can be gay or the same person who you always chill with in Daly's," said LoGrasso. "But it's only part of them, not who they are."

According to the Day of Silence website, for too long, the silencing of LGBT people and their allies has been the norm. Whether it's the lack of LGBT-inclusive material in educational resources, or role assignments based upon our assumed gender, such silence and silencing affect everyone in a profound way.

"The Day of Silence moves the power of these personal experiences to a community-focused effort," said Zack. "It is a way of turning silence on its head, of reclaiming silence as a tool."

According to Zack, the Day began in 1996 and was organized at the University of Virginia by some of its students.

The Day received extensive local press coverage and a positive response from community members,

motivating a woman named Maria Pulzetti to take the Day nationally, according to the website.

FLAG will also be doing a different kind of protest, Night of Noise, where everyone will be invited to the residential quad to support the equal treatment of all alternative lifestyles.

"It's going to be really cool," said LoGrasso. "Basically we will be holding signs and candles and hopefully people will notice us."

"The signs will say 'I was silent because I want to give blood' or 'I was silent because I know my best friend will be a good dad,'" he added.

According to Zack, a lot of people don't know what this day is about, but FLAG wanted to bring it to the community.

"It's important to take the initiative," said LoGrasso. "LASO, FLAG, ASAR, and BSU are such positive organizations that need to have more of a positive influence on the campus community."

According to Zack, heterosexuals never really have to worry about anything to do with sexuality.

"This is a fight for the right to love," said Zack. "What are you going to do to end the silence?"