

Translating different cultures into the language of art

Visual Thinking

Runs Jan 28 until Feb 27
The Alberta Gallery of Art

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The lines dividing drawing, photography, sculpting and painting are blurring together in *Visual Thinking*, a new exhibit showcasing the artistic inklings of some of the University of Alberta's very own graduate students. The presented work spans a dazzling variety of styles, yet, as curators Helen Gerritzen and Joan Greer explain, it's all united under the common theme of the artistic process.

"The grad students come from a number of different disciplines ... some of them are in sculpture, some of them are in drawing, some are into print-making, and yet all of them in some way use drawings or work related to drawings," explains Gerritzen, who is also a U of A sessional instructor. "We were looking for [the student's] process, or the way they were trying to work out their ideas, their approaches to their techniques or processes."

Each graduate student's individual take on the challenge produced a curious and varying end result. A collection of pictures of young piglets sketched on actual sausage casings are displayed



NOT YOUR AVERAGE SCRIBBLE Sketches like these—along with other artistic works from U of A students—are on display at The Alberta Gallery of Art.

behind glass. Elsewhere in the gallery, large digital prints that playfully toy with light and shadows hang beside a series of textured paintings dealing with our damaged environment. There's even a picture that was created by using tools normally designated for sculpting and imprinting designs. Yet despite all of this diversity, many pieces display a similar theme: one's sense of the world, or one's place in it.

"It often happens with graduate

students: they come from all over and they use their work as a way to fit in," says Gerritzen, echoing the sentiments present in the works. "[Grad student] Yan Geng is from China and the drawings he did are from his high-rise apartment from Edmonton. I get a feeling he's using these drawings in order to find a sense of place for somebody who's from out of the country."

According to Gerritzen, the exhibit will help grad students take away more

than just a feeling of place.

"The way [each artist] visualizes something may be quite different [from another's]," Greer states. "That [visualization] then will inform how the person who's next to him in the studio, who's from a completely different place, will start to look through his own eyes at things."

The emerging cycle of art inspiring art seems to be expanding on the concept of what it can be, even for the art-

ists themselves. And, unified under the concept of visual thinking, Gerritzen sees it as an evolution of artwork.

"The very traditional art, with pen, ink and pencil will [always] be a precious and crucial part of an artist's process, but a lot of people are using new technology, because they still see it as visual thinking," Gerritzen says. "I love the title, because you can't peg it into anything. It doesn't say a drawing has to be this, or this or this."

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Nominations can be picked up/submitted at any Faculty Association office or InfoLink desk, or at the SU Executive Office front desk. Nominations can also be emailed to the Associate VP-Academic Tasneem Karbani at avpa@su.ualberta.ca.