

2009-10-30 Cleveland, Tennessee



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Accessibility 2009 starts tonight

Cleveland Daily Banner Staff

By JOYANNA WEBER Banner Intern

Cleveland State Community College is having its **Accessibility 2009** exhibition throughout the campus tonight through Sunday Nov. 1 with a reception in the Humanities Building tonight from 4 to 7 p.m.

Skilled students from Cleveland State are working with the environment to make art, using recycled glass bottles, plastic silverware, weeds and other items, and creating unique artwork for the show.

Accessibility 2009 actually began Oct. 18 when the artists came to the Cleveland State campus. The artists' work and the projects they have done with local school children will be included in the exhibition.

The 14 day event was planned by Cleveland State Art Instructor Mark Mcleod who said he patterned the event after the annual **Accessibility** art events in his hometown of Sumter, S.C. Mcleod also participated in the Sumter event as an artist in 2001 and as the curator in 2007.

Although this is the first year for the event for Cleveland State, Mcleod hopes that **Accessibility** will become an annual event. He said the event aims to "take artwork out of the galleries and make it accessible." The event will appeal to people who might have questions about artwork, according to Mcleod.

"[For] People who don't normally look at art, put it out there so they can't miss it," he said.

Mcleod began planning the event six months ago. He posted information about the event on art Web sites hoping to hear from interested artists.

Nandini Makrandi, curator of the event, chose eight artists from those who responded. The artists, from all over the United States, are Jenn Figg, Bryant Holsenbeck, Anna Kell, Matthew McCormack, Nora Rabins, Jody Servon, Jacob Stanley, and Lisa von Koch.

Mcleod also applied for and received grants from the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Allied Arts Council of Cleveland, Cleveland State Community College Foundation and Cleveland State Community College.

This year's theme is **sustainability**. All the artwork is being created from recycled, found and reclaimed materials. McLeod said the artwork and artist talks are "focusing on how much we waste."

Projects include weaving weeds, reforming glass and making chains of plastic silverware into curtains. One artist is taking used wooden pallets and turning them back into useable wood. Artists and Cleveland State students are also going into local classrooms to create art with the children. This event has also given Cleveland State students the opportunity to spend some one-on-one time with the artists.

For more information about **Accessibility 2009** visit their Web site at www.accessibilitycleveland.com.

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