ART IS A VERB: SHOW BY RMC NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT

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Williams Art Attached: Love Covers All
Self Portrait
Mountain by California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – An exhibit of art works titled “Art is a Verb,” by Rocky Mountain College student Carla Williams, will be displayed at the Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship until April.

Williams describes herself as a nontraditional student who will graduate this year.

Williams’ paintings, watercolors, drawings, collages, sculptures and other works are mostly abstract. Artistically, she is comfortable somewhere in between graffiti artist and abstract expressionist. She has earned high praise for her works from Jim Baken, RMC professor of art.

“It’s a mix of words and images. She uses words as if they were things and images as if they were words,” Baken said, adding “… with Carla, there are no holds barred … I admire her bravery.”

Williams’ loaded compositions have reminded Baken of the work of Red Grooms and Jean Michel Basquiat in that figures and mixed media appear together; and Willem de Kooning, in its similar boldness of presentation.

“Texture, whether created from scrapings of the palette knife or of spent tobacco and other substances, like leaves, mixed into the gesso, is almost always present in her portraits, landscapes, figures and other images,” he said.

Collage is an important element--by itself as well as in some of her paintings. Including photographs, beaten-down baling twine, and dried leaves from some non-producing artichokes--which she grew herself, Williams either glues or paints over the collage elements to incorporate them into the painting. Three photos/portraits in her most recent painting/collage are of herself, her animals and her family.

As a frustrated rider and weaver, she attributes her love of horses and weaving to her Welsh ancestors who wove constantly using both hands and feet to work ancient looms, which had both foot pedals and hand controls. Their ambidextrous practice in weaving apparently lent itself well to riding. Until she gathers enough funds to return to riding and weaving, she continues her artistic studies at Rocky Mountain College -- graduation finally set for August, 2013 -- and works part-time at a local weekly newspaper.

In the future, she hopes to complete several series of drawings, paintings, collages and sculptures. Themes include childhood memories, family happenings, dance, days with the dog, days with the horse, days with both the dog and the horse, flowers and four
different seasons of the rose garden. Her work will also include more research into the lives and ideas of other artists, especially Ida Kohlmeyer and Walter Anderson, and life size portraits and sculptures.

The exhibit may be seen at Billings Universalist-Unitarian Fellowship, 2032 Central Ave. Viewing times are from 10:30 to noon on Sundays, and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Wed evenings (during the Community Lecture Series) and by appointment: Tel: 652-1893 / email: buuf@uubillings.org.

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