

## RMC STUDENT WORK EXHIBITED

The Ryniker-Morrison Gallery is showing “Kaleidoscope,” an all student exhibition juried by the Montana artist and independent curator Gordon McConnell. The exhibition opened with a reception and awards presentation on April 15th and will run through May 1, 2009.

The show “Kaleidoscope” is the end of year art exhibition at Rocky Mountain College. This show represents a snapshot of the creative efforts of students taking part in Rocky’s Art program. This year the show is juried by Montana artist and independent curator Gordon McConnell, who was given the task of selecting the exhibition out of the over 80 pieces submitted. He selected the pieces with the idea of creating an exhibition. The 25 works of art he chose are as “diverse and eclectic as the twenty-some singular artists who made the work.”

Commenting on the exhibition, McConnell stated, “It tells a story—one with many layers and meanings, but one story. On one level, it’s a story about creativity and passion, identity and community, and being young. On another, it’s about good teachers who encourage originality, but also cultivate the development of skills and a base of knowledge about the forms and ideas of historic and contemporary art essential to achieving true originality. Overall, it’s a narrative about the variety, power, freedom and joy of visual expression. I’m engaged, delighted and impressed by what the authors of this exhibition have to say.”

In addition to selecting the pieces for the exhibition, McConnell also selected a piece for the Juror’s Choice Award. This went to Jeanne Bowman for her painting “Soft, Soft.” McConnell said of her work, “ambitious and technically accomplished, yet [...] improvisational—freely teasing out strings of visual associations and shifting contexts.” He also selected the works of six other artists for Merit Awards. This distinction was given to Kelsey Dwyer “for her adroit repurposing of a window frame and her play with varieties of transparency (‘Flowers and Skulls’); Jeff Pritchard for his monster-movie photographs of Galapagos Islands fauna; Alexa Audet, for ‘ME,’ an intricate photo-mosaic of herself made up of images, not just of herself, but her community; Krista Hoyes (‘Happy Halloween’) for her cat girl’s clinically realistic dentition; and Ashley Abraham (‘Weapons of Mass Consumption’) and Monica Geary, (‘Untitled’) for their skillful deconstruction of the relentless barrage of ready-made looks and identities

directed at American women.”

“Kaleidoscope” kicked off with a reception held on April 15th in the Ryniker-Morrison Gallery attended by students, Rocky faculty, and other members of the community. Gordon McConnell gave certificates to students who received special recognition for their creative efforts.

The public is invited to view the exhibition, which is open through May 1st. The Ryniker-Morrison Gallery is on the first floor in Tech Hall, the building between the library and the football field. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am–4:00pm.