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New studio art major strengthens creative arts

By *Jan Baker*, contributing writer

Oakland University's Bachelor of Arts degree in studio art, launched in fall 2003, enhances the **College of Arts and Sciences'** (CAS) already strong commitment to creative arts.

"The valued importance of art in our lives is part of what a full university experience should include," said Andrea Eis, program coordinator and special instructor of art history.

The university's 50 studio art majors agree, having eagerly embraced the long-awaited program. A sense of community has developed among the students, who are enthusiastically committed and dedicated to art.

The program already has graduated four students, who presented the program's first thesis exhibition last April. Lynn Quetell, whose exhibition "Temptation" consisted of a series of paintings metaphorically representing progressions and relationships in a woman's life, said, "There was a degree of expectancy that didn't exist before."

After its first year, students cite great faculty and stimulating classes small enough to allow for plenty of faculty interaction as program highlights.

"The degree has already worked for me, since I have been hired at the DIA and College for Creative Studies," said graduate David Shock.

The studio art program has a history that completes a full circle in CAS. It was discontinued years ago only to be reestablished in fall 2003.

"The new major completed the visual arts experience with a more in-depth study," Eis said.

This year Eis concentrated on upgrading digital imaging and video department equipment.

"This is a high student interest area, and commercially speaking, there is an increase in employability in having a digital background," Eis said.

Majors in studio art may specialize in drawing, painting or photography to prepare for careers as professional artists or in fields tied to the arts or positions in the corporate world requiring creative problem-solving approaches.

Recent graduate Veronica Woloshen believes her studio art degree was a great accomplishment. "Whether or not I have another show or sell another painting, I am content knowing I pursued what I love," she said.

For information about the program, visit the **Department of Art and Art History** Web site or contact Susan Wood, chairperson, at (248) 370-3375 or wood@oakland.edu.

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