

# Resident artist Schumm impresses community



Photo by Calista Condo

Three years' worth of Fred Schumm's work decorate the walls of the interior of the Westby Gallery. The 82-year-old artist in residence works all day, every day in Westby Hall on his sculptures and other pieces. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday.

**By Calista Condo**

*Photo Editor*

When you hear that an 82-year-old artist has an art exhibit in Westby's gallery, your mind wanders from one idea to another, never settling on anything definite. Once you walk through the doors, any thought of what the show would be like is completely thrown out the window.

Fred Schumm, originally from Colorado Springs, Colo., has three years' worth of sculptures and two-dimensional work displayed in Westby until Nov. 3. His work is surprising and completely captivating.

Known to Westby inhabitants as mainly a sculptor, Schumm has shocked the art community that knows him so well by displaying his two-dimensional work for the first time anywhere.

"I've seen him working in the sculpture studio, but I never knew he did two-dimensional work," said senior art major Alyssa SanValentin. "It shows his wide range of technical knowledge."

Schumm, who works all day, every day in his studio, has been working at Rowan University for three years as an artist in residence. He was invited by Jim Greenwell and has created a relationship with many of the Rowan faculty and students since his arrival. The faculty was especially excited to see Schumm's work because they have watched him work and also know him on a personal level.

"For me his work is more than just pieces of art. It's a different side of Fred than I know," said Jane Graziano, a Rowan art professor who met Schumm in 2000. "It's an exploration of the surreal. It has imagery I would not expect from him."

This show is also very beneficial to the art students because they are able to watch Schumm's process from the beginning stages in the studio to the finished product placed in the gallery.

"It is amazing that Fred has this kind of energy and passion. Students get to see his works in progress and the time and effort that he puts

into them," said Dr. Fred Adelson, the Art Department Chair. "He shows that art keeps you young. We are really proud of him."

Schumm's work is not only beneficial because students get to see his work ethic, but because it is timeless high-quality art. This soft-spoken, humble man has created a world of dreamlike imagery and adventurous tactile sculpture. His three-dimensional works incorporate nature, mathematical precision, rhythmic-yet-irregular design, and tribal qualities.

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*— Fred Schumm*

The result is art that the viewer wants to reach out and explore. Schumm, who has always wanted to be an artist, says that he has a never-ending supply of inspiration.

"Ideas are everywhere. I don't know how anybody can run out of ideas," said Schumm. "I might see a stain on the wall and that might inspire me to make a sculpture."

Schumm's wife of 15 years, Lois, who is also a painter, is continuously inspired by her husband's love of art and hopes that Rowan art students are as well.

"I hope they (Rowan students) take away a desire to be unique and find their own voice because that is something Fred has done and he's been true to his own vision," said Lois Schumm. "He's 82 and he is still complaining that he doesn't have the time to do all that he wants to."

Fred Schumm is an inspiration to the Rowan community for his love of art and his ability to observe the world around him with the wonder of a child. He lets his art speak for itself, and it speaks volumes.



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