

Stephanie Syjuco

KENOSHA NEWS

UW-Parkside galleries hosting opening receptions for two shows Nov. 1, 2018

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By Kenosha news staff
October 27, 2018



"Diane Levesque: Penny Dreadfuls"

"Diane Levesque: Penny Dreadfuls" is on display through Nov. 16 at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Foundation Gallery.

An opening reception for the show is 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday.

The exhibit and the reception are free and open to the public.

Levesque is an art professor at Carthage College. Her "Penny Dreadfuls" project is a series of paintings and drawings described as "a reinterpretation of the Staffordshire figurines produced in Staffordshire, England."

The Staffordshire figurines of the early 1800s both idealized the lives of the poor and interpreted horrific events like

murders and lion attacks. The figurines were originally sold as mantelpiece decorations that were the equivalent of three-dimensional “penny dreadfuls” and satisfied the need of pre-Victorian and Victorian tastes for sensationalism in the public imagination.

Levesque amplifies the implied violence and sexuality of these figurines by exaggerating the gaudy colors and decorative motifs. She has removed the sentimentality of the original figurines in her current paintings and drawings, while sharing the same subject matter, according to gallery officials.

Levesque has received numerous awards and her work has been exhibited at venues including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Cultural Center, Racine’s Wustum Art Museum and the Museum of Wisconsin Art. She has a studio practice at the 16th Street Studios in Racine.

Also on display, starting Tuesday at UW-Parkside, is “Fakes,” featuring works by four artists — Stephanie Syjuco, Conrad Bakker, Eric Doeringer and Mark Klassen — who make reproductions and counterfeits “that consider authorship, authenticity, copyright, economics and relationships between high and low.”



“Fakes” will be on display through Dec. 14 in the university’s Fine Arts Gallery.

Syjuco’s project for this exhibition uses community participation and references to counterfeiting to visualize our communal “debt worth.”

Bakker carves wooden reproductions of desirable objects to explore the relationship between people and things, while Doeringer bootlegs unauthorized copies of artworks by contemporary artists and meticulously re-creates seminal artworks from the 1960s to the 1980s.

And Klassen “curiously scales and juxtaposes counterfeit banal objects to reflect our often contradicting values.”

The UW-Parkside galleries are open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. The galleries are located in the Rita Tallent Picken Regional Center for Arts and Humanities on the west side of the UW-Parkside campus at 900 Wood Road. For more information, call 262-595-2342 or email gallery@uwp.edu. Admission to the galleries and the opening receptions is free, and everyone is welcome.