

Celebrating Women's History Month: Stamp Gallery Showcases Female Artists

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Photo by Kaylan Fagan

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - On March 26th, Stamp Gallery manager Tara N. Youngborg and her team led a tour of The University of Maryland's Stamp Student Union, showcasing the work of contemporary female artists displayed prominently around the building as part of their Women's History Month celebration.

The tour began in Stamp's Gallery, where artist-in-residence Charlotte Richardson-Deppe was preparing a series of soft sculptures and smaller canvas pieces. As the tour started, Richardson-Deppe rehearsed for the gallery's closing Women's History Month event, an interactive performance art piece entitled "I Resist This." The performance occurred on Saturday, April 6th. This performance marked the Women's History Month exhibition's final day and the last Stamp Gallery tours on this subject.

During the Stamp Student Union tour, Youngborg provided insight into the realm of art, guiding participants through a curated selection of over 70 pieces. The University of Maryland's Contemporary Art Purchasing Program students meticulously chose and bought the works displayed throughout the school year. As Women's History Month drew to a close, this art collection served as a tribute, Tara Youngborg said, by "highlighting these women artists and the work they do" and allowing individuals to "get a sense of the diversity of artwork that women can make." Furthermore, the artwork chosen by the Contemporary Art Purchasing Program collection committee offers a platform for appreciation. It fosters

dialogue and opportunities for the public to engage with artwork crafted by talented female creators.

The University of Maryland established the Contemporary Art Purchasing Program to educate and inspire students by immersing the UMD community in compelling artwork produced by contemporary artists. Over the years, this committee has provided students on campus the chance to engage with art through research, discussion, and the acquisition of pieces crafted by emerging and established contemporary artists.



The art pieces showcased were works created by women, initiating dialog on topics such as female identity, environmental concerns, and human behavior. The pieces that stood out to many attendees were Line Up 1 and Line Up 4, created by Martine Gutierrez. The photographs are two of several in a series produced by Gutierrez, where she poses among similarly dressed mannequins. The artist is often indistinguishable from the props, requiring the viewer to determine what is real and what is not.

Junior Public Health major and tour attendee Megan Walton particularly enjoyed Gutierrez's works.

"It speaks to how women need to be dolled up and put on a different appearance," Walton explained, "That's just a stereotype that they have."

Other notable pieces included in the tour were University of Maryland alumnus Selin Balchi's "Contamination 32," Sarah Anne Johnson's "Bubble" and Barbara Probst's "Exposure #43: Barmsee, Bavaria, 08.18.06, 4:02 p.m., 2006."

The Stamp Gallery's celebration of female artists during Women's History Month has provided a platform for appreciation, dialogue, and reflection. Through curating works exploring the many aspects of femininity, Youngborg and the rest of the Contemporary Art Purchasing Program invite passersby to engage with women's diverse perspectives and talents in the art world. As we bid farewell to this commemoration, let us carry forward these conversations and continue amplifying women's voices in art.

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