

Originally posted on the Truman Media Network website with link to photo gallery
Story and Photos by Mariah Shields

Danielle Yakle Exhibit Featured in Truman Art Gallery

An exhibition featuring mixture of sculpture and textile art called “Danielle Yakle: Futilitarian” will be on display from March 5 to April 16 in the Art Gallery at Truman State University. Dr. Aaron Fine, Director of the Gallery and Professor of Art at Truman State University, shared information about Danielle Yakle and the exhibit. Here are 5 facts to know:

1. The Art: Creating Meaning

Yakle did not provide an artist statement, but Dr. Fine did get some insight after discussing the exhibit with the artist. He said that the art is supposed to be the inside of the human body as imagined by someone who knows little of human anatomy and does not desire to know more. It’s contemporary art, which can sometimes be hard to understand. Dr. Fine offered the following advice:

Trust your instincts and don’t cave into them and say, “Ok, I’m disturbed, so I don’t like it.” Instead, “I’m disturbed. Why is the artist disturbing me?” Because she provocative. She’s interesting. She doesn’t want to give me what I expect. She wants to give me something different.

2. The Name: Futilitarian

The name is a play on the term utilitarian, which is used to describe more traditional and functional ceramic and fiber pieces. Dr. Fine said the term has been used to dismiss art in the past because some consider works made to have a function aren’t “art for art’s sake.” In this case, Yakle’s art does not have utility in the traditional sense but still evolved from this aspect of art history. So perhaps, trying to find a function is futile.

3. The Style: Installation

The art is, as Dr. Fine said, is “not on a pedestal or behind a frame...The environment becomes the art. To see the art, you have to enter it or at least interact with it in some way.”

The piece was installed over a two and a half day period. There are pieces hanging from the ceiling and placed across the floor. The art fills the entire room. Because of the nature of installation art, the piece is a little different each time it is set up depending on factors such as the size of the room. The entire room becomes the art.

4. The Artist: Danielle Yakle

Yakle completed her bachelor’s degree in studio art at Truman State University in 2005, and while there, her work was displayed in the student gallery. She received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Kansas in 2010, where she is now a professor. She specializes in fibers and sculptures. Dr. Fine said that while the Art Department does not necessarily look for alumni to feature in the gallery, her piece shows how sculpture and textiles can be mixed to create art. He said Truman State is looking to have a less

rigid division between sculpture and textiles in the art program, and this exhibit is an example of the melding of multiple media.

5. The Story: A Snowstorm

Yakle arrived at Truman on the day before the snowstorm that shut down all of campus hit Kirksville. She was still able to install her art. However, the Art Department Chair from Columbia College was not able to travel that day as planned to jury the student gallery. The art department needed an outside expert to judge the art, so Dr. Fine said, "I went and asked Danielle like, 'Hi, you have an MFA, right?'" Dr. Fine said the department was lucky to have an outside professor available to judge on the day of the snow storm.

The art gallery is free and open to the public. More information on the gallery, including current exhibits, can be found at <http://tsugallery.wordpress.com/>

(Note: Photo options included below. All were taken with a Canon PowerShot SD1000 and have been edited. I will also email the original files.)





