Creativity over mechanical: Students showcase authentic work

By BRIANNA MILLER
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall is hosting "Made by Real Humans," an art exhibit in the Birke Art Gallery in the Visual Arts Center.

This exhibit will take place from Nov. 16 to Dec. 4, at the Visual Arts Center located at 927 Third Ave. Downtown Huntington.

Marshall University's website said that there will also be a reception starting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, and an awards ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m.

Sophia Celdrán, gallery director, said that "Made by Real Humans" is part of what's called a Foundations Review, which is a milestone art students complete for their education.

> ***"Sometimes you can tell when an artist pushes themselves to create work that shines through. Authenticity is the right word."***
>
> ***–Sophia Celdrán, Gallery Director***

"So, they'll do their Foundations courses, which teach the beginning elements of art," Celdran said. "They'll do graphic design, painting, photography, videography, sculpture and ceramics."

Celdran also said the students who finish up will have their work put on display along the walls at the Visual Arts Center, and then they'll give a presentation to faculty, where the top 100 to 150 works will be selected.

When it comes to how the name "Made by Real Humans" was chosen, Celdran said it was a student decision.

"This semester it was kind of a statement against AI and the use of AI-generated artwork, and maybe a more positive note would be the stance for supporting the humanities and supporting the people who create art because human creativity will always outshine anything mechanical," Celdran said.

When it comes to what makes an artwork stand out, Celdran said she looks for art that pushes what a student can do.

"Sometimes you can tell when an artist pushes themselves to create work that shines through," Celdran said. "Authenticity is the right word."

Celdran said that what she hopes visitors take away from the exhibition is to see new faces in the Visual Arts Center as well as people seeing how much work and discipline went into the art.

"Most people think art school is about learning how to draw really well or learning how to paint really well," Celdran said. "But it is time intensive. It's a lot of labor, and it's really more about problem solving than it is about painting or sculpting or whatever."

Celdran also said this Foundations program the exhibit is based off of is designed to be challenging for students.

"It's designed to be challenging, to expose students to a lot of techniques and materials they've never been exposed to before," Celdran said. " So, a lot of people kind of find it challenging to manage their time, just as any student does."

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'Every second matters:' Naloxone training available on campus

By ALYSON MESSINGER
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall's Student Government Administration has passed a resolution to make boxes of Naloxone, also known as Narcan, available to those who live on campus in the First-Year Residence Halls.

Senator Victoria Plunkard, the author of the resolution, said that having Naloxone on campus could potentially save someone's life.

"As a pre-med student pursuing a career in emergency medicine, I understand how important it is to act quickly in an emergency," Plunkard said. "During an opioid overdose, every second matters, and having Naloxone readily available could make the difference between life and death."

Presented by the Campus Life Committee, the resolution will ultimately allow residents to help fellow students in times of dire need.

Even though some may think having Naloxone available is unnecessary, Plunkard said college campuses need to be prepared for emergencies of all kinds.

"You never know when someone may need help, and I think students, faculty and staff should have access to the resources necessary to respond. My goal with this resolution was to help make Marshall a safer campus and encourage more awareness, education and preparedness surrounding opioid overdoses."

As mentioned in the written resolution, "Opioid overdoses can occur unexpectedly, and having naloxone readily available allows individuals to respond quickly in the event of a suspected opioid overdose."

Senator Plunkard and SGA believe that it's important to have Naloxone in residence halls due to the large number of Marshall students who live there, in an effort to contribute to the overall well-being of the campus community.

It is also mentioned in the resolution that Naloxone supports harm reduction, giving students additional resources that may help save a life in the event of an emergency.

"I believe that having Naloxone available is a simple but potentially lifesaving measure, and if it saves even one life, it is worth it," Plunkard said.

Naloxone (Narcan) training will take place after the Senate meeting on Nov. 9 and will be open to all students, staff and faculty.

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