

Lewis University hosts 7-artist exhibit

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A&E

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The HERALD-NEWS

Seven artists representing varying perspectives, mediums, techniques and experience will host a reception and gallery talk as part of their "Artitude" exhibit.

The event will be 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at Lewis University in Romeoville.

The artists – Mary N. Carnahan, Lisa Colleen, Barbara Eberhard, Mary T. Ehrler, Joe Hadamik, Robert Ryan and Michael Veltman – form a cohesive group whose work "complements, enriches, and unifies each other to form a dramatic, illuminating and evocative show," according to a news release from Lewis University.

Learn more about the artists and their works from their statements.

For photos of their artwork, visit this story at theherald-news.com/life-style/a-and-e.

Barbara Eberhard, visual artist: "Eyes to the Soul"

They say the eyes are "the window to the soul." I find looking into someone's eyes very revealing. Looking deeply gives you the opportunity to find them, to know them.

These portraits of peoples' eyes are created in Gum Bichromate, a photographic printing process from the 1880s. It is considered a combination of photography, watercolor and printmaking. Each piece is an original.

Mary T. Ehrler, visual artist/painter

My artwork is the culmination and assimilation of studying archetypal principles, the revelation of soul entering this physical world, learning, growing, leaving and returning from the heavens that soul resides in.

This series is of friends and family.

Robert Ryan, painter and muralist

I feel that more often than not, I'm able to find beauty in everyday life. Simple, ordinary objects or events that we can all relate to seem to become my favorite subjects to paint and I tend to find the most satisfaction from that when completed.

Over the years, I've found that because of this familiarity, people often ask what it is that I'm trying to convey by presenting an often mundane subject on canvas to the public.

But to be honest, I want everyone to walk away from my work drawing their own conclusions. Isn't that what art's all about?

Lisa Colleen, writer of monologues: "Eyes to the Soul"

What we see and how we see it defines us. "Eyes to the Soul" gives a glimpse into the rich, intimate thoughts of another as they describe



Photo provided

Joe Hadamik, ceramic artist for the above piece, explained his art in a written statement: "Usually my pieces are functional, but the pieces in this show are some of my breakout works."

what they have seen and how this makes them feel.

Each of the thoughts shared through this project contains a universal truth, an idea that celebrates life, heals and inspires. I believe that the sharing of our truths, the telling of our stories transforms both teller and listener.

I am grateful to offer "Eyes to the Soul" with my friend Babs and hope one of the stories told here helps you, the listener, connect with one of your stories.

Michael Veltman, photographer

I hope to capture the rain and how it softens the city and quiets the experience.

The urban orchestra of vehicles, people and the bustling din is muted under a blanket of drips and drops of the patterning rain.

The diffused glow of car and streetlights illuminate the walk in a vague and noncommittal way.

The people and their stories become translated to impressionistic experiences passing quietly along. In these moments, people find themselves lost

IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** "Artitude" Reception and Gallery Talk

■ **WHEN:** 7 p.m. Feb. 21

■ **WHERE:** Lewis University, Wadsworth Family Gallery is located in the Oremus Fine Arts Center

■ **ETC.:** This free exhibit is open to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through March 22.

■ **INFORMATION:** Contact Natalie Swain, art gallery coordinator, at swainna@lewisu.edu or visit lewisu.edu.

in thought, transformed and momentarily discovering their own story, their own path.

Mary N. Carnahan, mixed media artist

Creating art allows me to escape reality and gives me freedom to explore.

What I find most interesting about

mixed media and abstract art is the process of incorporating and manipulating a variety of different mediums and materials.

My work is a complicated process for me and I hope each viewer will have a personal journey while exploring and will conclude their individual feelings. Each interpretation will be different.

Sketchbooks and pre-thinking of what to create does not exist here, there are no rules and no limitations.

Abstract work is my comfort place, my home where freedom of expression comes and goes on my terms.

Joe Hadamik, ceramic artist

Usually my pieces are functional, but the pieces in this show are some of my breakout works. Sometimes the ideas for these pieces are born out of a simple desire to turn a broken piece into a work of art, other times the pieces help me deal with a deeply impactful event in my life. "L2," created after major back surgery, is a therapeutic piece that helped me adapt to and accept an event that changed my life forever.