

A Picasso OR a Gartunkel

Graduating art students showcase their work with Senior Exhibitions

By Curtis Heideman
Midland Staff

While many upperclassmen get their resumes ready, searching for jobs and a place to live after college, art students are faced with another daunting task.

The creation of a portfolio and a senior exhibition are on the backs of their minds, but on the forefront of their palettes.

Senior art exhibitions are more than just a bunch of paintings and drawings hung on a wall. They are the accumulation of the time spent and talents learned while at Midland Lutheran College.

Although a variety of mediums are shown, the students will usually focus on a specific talent that employers are willing to exploit.

"Most students will move into commercial art," art professor Robert Therien said. "If you are going to be a real artist, you better know how to baby-sit and have your license in snow removal."

Art students come into Midland looking for ways to improve their natural talent for different reasons.

"I think I am an intelligent and creative person," senior Matt Mestl said. "Art is a good way to bring those ideas across. It is challenging and rewarding."

Students will try a variety of mediums throughout their stay at Midland. This helps them to decide which path they would like to take.

"After they have had experience with the different fields, they begin to focus on the one that they are confident and comfortable in," Therien said. "The more they focus, the better they do in their concentrations."

Along with classroom and studio work, students

are also encouraged to complete an internship. Internships help students gain job experiences and be hired after graduation, Therien said.

Mestl took advantage of a couple of internships during his junior and senior years.

"I worked at Fremont Parks and Recreation," Mestl said. "I was responsible for designing signs for Hornel Park."

Even with a struggling economy and high unemployment rates, Therien said that it is not a challenge to get hired in the art field.

"After having done business interns, getting a job won't be difficult," Therien said. "We have a high placement rate."

Although job placement is positive, the students must take their exhibitions seriously, he said. This is a time when they have a complete portfolio and it will not get anymore organized than it is right now.

"Now they have everything together and they have all the tools to present their work," Therien said.

Art professor Bryan Yancey said a student's portfolio and exhibition are integral in the possibility of graduate school.

"The artwork in some portfolios allows for work in a series," Yancey said. "This allows them to be more focused and grad school is series based."

Mestl said he is planning to use his artwork to move on in a couple of years and apply to graduate school to earn a degree in graphic design.

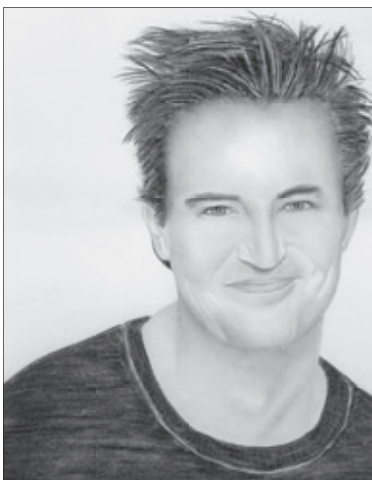
After four years of interning, drawing, painting and molding, Mestl said he is ready to head into the work force before moving on to graduate school.

"I am going to move to (Las) Vegas and become a professional poker player," Mestl said with a smirk. "If that doesn't pan out, I will get some minimal paying design job in Omaha."



Photo by Curtis Heideman/Midland Staff

Senior Matt Mestl has kept himself busy with internships during the past two years. He plans to some day continue his graphic design education at graduate school.



Drawing by Heather DeGrot

Musbach Spring Art Exhibition Schedule

April 13 – 26
Elissa deFreese

April 27 – May 3
Kristy Baker

May 4 – 10
Zack Ziegler

May 11 – 17
Matt Mestl

May 18 – 24
Jasmine Brown

Senior Elissa deFreese's artwork is currently on display through this weekend in the Musbach Art Center.

photo by Joe Evans/Co-Editor

