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Teachers headline art show at Bridgewater College

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By MEGAN WILLIAMS

The Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, Va. — Emily Quesenberry spends her days teaching others about art.

She loves it, but often has to remind herself to leave time to make art herself.

"You've got to keep your creative juices flowing so you can tell your students to do that too," she said.

The second-year teacher at Stuarts Draft High School is one of 15 Augusta County art teachers to submit work to the "This is Not an Apple" art show at Bridgewater College, running through Feb. 1.

Quesenberry submitted three pieces of work, paintings and weavings that she did two years ago.

Although she wishes she had more recent art to contribute, she said the experience is pushing her back into creating art. She has started working on three new projects, including a quilt and a painting.

"It's important as a teacher to continue to make art," Quesenberry said.

It was Michael Hough, a Bridgewater professor and director of the Miller Gallery, who decided to celebrate the artist in local educators. It is the first group show he has put together at the gallery for work not done by students.

At an in-service session for teachers last year, Hough suggested they have a show. The response was positive, and although it was a year before the idea took shape, the exhibit opened earlier this month.

Paintings, sculptures, dyed scarves, glass etchings and installations are displayed throughout the gallery, located on the second floor of the Alexander Mack Memorial Library.

"I have an interest in how do people teach art and manage being an artist at the same time," Hough said.

"I was surprised how much talent there is teaching our kids."

Some teachers only submitted one piece of work, others contributed multiples.

Hough said he was struck by how many of the pieces were meant for friends or family of the artists: "sometimes, that is the work that means the most to an artist."

Hough said he hopes the teachers will encourage their students to come to the gallery and view work created by the people teaching them.

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Quesenberry said although she loved art from her first class in eighth grade, she never got a chance to see her teachers' work.

She said the opportunity to share her work is validating, and a chance to feel like an artist, not just a teacher of art.

IF YOU GO:

What: "This is Not an Apple" art show, featuring work by kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers in Augusta County

When: Through Feb. 1, from 7:45 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.

Where: Miller Gallery, second floor at Alexander Mack Memorial Library at Bridgewater College

Cost: Free

More information: Call Michael Hough at (540) 828-5684 or email him at mhough(at)bridgewater.edu

Information from: The Daily News Leader, http://www.newsleader.com

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