

Indigo Girl Saliers explains  
 duet's approach to life, music  
 A&E/B2

# Arts & Entertainment

## Art works on campus

## Eccentric exhibit to occupy gallery

By Kelly Murdoch-Kitt  
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

Are you among the many on this campus wondering who glued the contents of her closet to the side of Scales Fine Arts Center? Jane Mulfinger, creator of this unusual display, is currently displaying two of her works in the gallery at Scales, along with contemporary painter Dan Devening and late set designer Jo Meilzner (upstairs gallery).

The multi-colored fabric sculpture is called "Rhoberts I." Mulfinger used second-hand clothing, which she stitched together to make a 21-by-23-foot window unit. When viewed inside the gallery, "Rhoberts I" looks like a very modern stained-glass window.

Mulfinger's other work, "Lost for Words," is built directly on the wall. Three slightly elliptical green shapes serve as a backdrop for glass shelves which hold more than 200 pairs of eyeglasses. The circles, shelves and their contents are highlighted with three spotlights; this illumination creates the illusion that the green background shapes are actually suspended and back-lit from the wall.

Words are written on the lenses of the glasses, and when the light passes through each lens, the words are projected curiously backwards against the wall.

Devening's 18 works combine realism and abstraction. Textural variation is evident in his works, with some resembling old, worn wood and others appearing smooth, as though they were air-brushed.

Some look like layers of collaged tissue paper, while other canvases are pierced with holes of varying sizes.

Many of the pieces are multi-layered; an example of this is the bright, seemingly simplistic "Ledge." At the bottom of this piece,

Devening has painted a wavy, reddish strip which resembles the folds in a stage curtain.

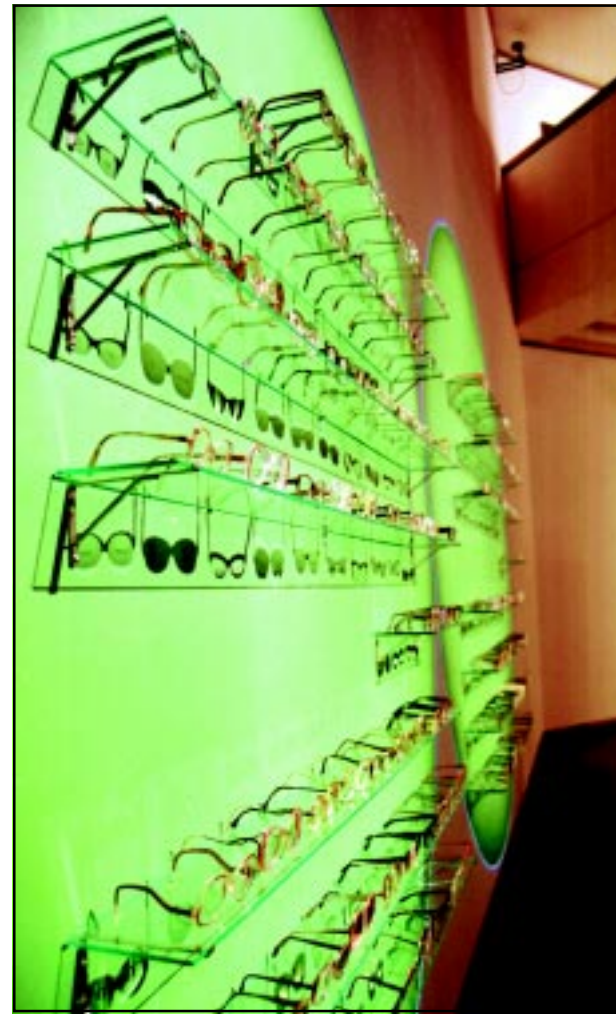
If the viewer focuses on this strip long enough, the waves appear to move. Above this are several loose, triangular lines which appear to be either a spiderweb covered in dew or the cables of a suspension bridge. At face value, this is all there is to be seen in the composition.

When concentrating upon the yellow background, a subtle, realistic living room scene becomes ap-



Noel Fox/ Old Gold and Black

A "stained-glass window" composed of stitched-together articles of secondhand clothing appears in the new exhibition. The exhibition features several artworks formed from ordinary objects.



Noel Fox/ Old Gold and Black

Jane Mulfinger's work "Lost for Words" is part of the exhibit which opens Oct. 17.

parent. The gallery space upstairs is filled with a cross-section of several decades' worth of Jo Meilzner's set designs for theatrical productions. Some are rudimentary sketches that served to jot down initial concepts, while others are more like completed paintings.

The media vary from pencil-and-ink to paint, and some of the sketches are even drawn on plain, lined notebook paper. Displayed in one of the upright, glass cases are illustrated correspondences sent by Meilzner to his son.

The exhibits will be on display in the Scales Fine Arts Gallery until Nov. 25. Mary Henderson, Meilzner's biographer, will be giving a talk on Meilzner's life and work at 8 p.m. Oct. 17 in Scales 102.

## Student buying trips mold university art collection

By Laura O'Connor  
 Contributing Reporter

Last March during spring break, six students traveled to New York to purchase artwork for the university's art collection. The art will be displayed in Scales Fine Arts Center Gallery this spring.

According to David Faber, an associate professor of art, the collection was started by students in 1963 in an effort to support the arts.

The collection is characterized by contemporary artworks, and past visits have yielded two paintings by Spanish painter Pablo Picasso.

Every four years a committee of students is selected to travel to New York to choose paintings. Students are interviewed and asked about their backgrounds and interests in art. However, a student is not required to be an art major to be on the committee.

Once the students are selected, they begin to make a list of the contemporary

artists that they would like to add to the university collection. Students write letters to the museums soliciting information regarding up-and-coming artists, artists with promise and newcomers in the art world.

According to junior Jennifer Bumgarner, who traveled to New York in March, the students ask museums for slides of works by selected artists and narrow the selection to about fifteen artists.

Before going to New York, the student committee also reads up on the art world there.

"They (the student committee) read reviews of plays and art in order to get a better feel of how the art community is looking at different pieces of art," Faber said.

Once the students get to New York, they spend five days at the museums looking at the works of art that they have on their lists. On the last day of the trip they will often spend the entire night deciding which works they will purchase.

The new collection includes pieces from several museums, including Morris-Healy

Gallery, Pace-Wilderstein Gallery, and McKee Gallery.

"One of the problems with purchasing contemporary art is that more and more artists are using non-traditional mediums such as sound, light and digital mediums," Bumgarner said. "Due to the limitations of the Benson University Center, we have had to rule out many worthy pieces which used these mediums."

According to Faber, many artists like their work permanently housed in a place of education. Once the works are showcased at Scales Fine Arts Center, they are permanently moved to the Benson University Center.

"It is wonderful for students to have input on which works to buy. They are leaving something with the university," Bumgarner said.

"I think it is a wonderful experience for students to have their papers and books spread out (in Benson) and be studying among some of the most famous and incredible pieces of work in the country."



Noel Fox/ Old Gold and Black

Howard Finster's "Heaven Is Worth It All" hangs in Benson University Center as part of the university art collection.