

Art Appreciation 101

Dedicated to showcasing the artwork of both emerging and established Boston-area artists, the Bunker Hill Community College Art Gallery nurtures and supports creative and intellectual inquiry. The Gallery, in its second year of operation, is supported largely through the generosity of the BHCC Foundation.

Envisioned as a setting for cultural expression and diversity through arts presentations meant to complement academic offerings, the Art Gallery has become a must-see cultural focal point for students and a destination site for campus visitors. As a backdrop to classroom learning, BHCC faculty use the contents of several exhibits for topical discussions and student writing assignments. For example, last year Lou Jones' photo essay, *Final Exposure, Portraits from Death Row*, encouraged significant campus-wide dialogue during the public debate of the recently defeated Massachusetts Death Penalty Bill.

Characterized by *Art New England*, the region's premiere visual arts publication, as a "generous wedge of space," the BHCC Art Gallery makes the best use of that space by bringing art to campus that best speaks to the diversity that defines Bunker Hill Community College. Conceived by President Mary L. Fifield, who was a practicing artist in a former life, the Gallery offers state-of-the-art lighting and a 30-foot expanse of plate glass accordion partitions that provide for a self-contained viewing space. This design was accomplished while preserving the integrity and openness of the A-300 Lobby that is adjacent to it.

Since its inaugural exhibition in fall 2004, featuring the largest assembly of works to date by Jamaica's best known abstract expressionist painter, Kofi Kayiga, and followed by the first solo exhibit of works by Peter Madden, nationally recognized for his artists' books, the Art Gallery has mounted ten exhibits.

Student internship and work-study positions at the Art Gallery assist the College in meeting student development objectives by, among other things, providing motivated students with hands-on management roles. Most importantly, the Gallery brings students in contact with artists' organizations and local practicing artists. The Artists' Group of Charlestown has invited Bunker Hill Community College student artists to participate in the Charlestown Open Studio event and their sponsored exhibit of local schools' student talent at the Stove Factory. Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard organized *Paris in the Park* and invited BHCC students to participate in the event with a visual arts display. Works in various media by student artists have been presented in the *Annual Student Juried Exhibit* and highlighted by the BHCC President's Artistic Achievement Awards. Solo exhibits showcasing individual talents in photography and sculpture have provided a spotlight for local talent. Large diverse group shows, produced to promote the work of artist members from groups such as the African American Master Artists in Residence Program and the Boston Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art, offer the local and College community free access to artistic expression.

One such group show at the Art Gallery this year which was organized as a component of the BHCC International Women's Month

Celebration was the *New England Women's Caucus for Art Regional Exhibit* which ran through March 23. The exhibit was sponsored in conjunction with the Women's Caucus for Art's (WCA) National Conference in Boston entitled *Digging Deeper to Build New Paradigms*. The WCA mission is to increase opportunities, visibility and recognition for women in the arts.

The Regional WCA juried exhibit at Bunker Hill Community College contained work from more than 20 members of the Boston, Central Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut WCA Chapters. More than 50 pieces, which ranged from paintings to photography and collage to conceptual work, were included in the show. During the scheduled gallery talk, nine of the 24 participating WCA member artists came to the College to discuss their works, processes, motivation and careers with BHCC faculty, staff and students. Only two other area colleges, Brandeis University and the Wentworth Institute of Technology, had the distinction of exhibiting WCA works.

WCA



The BHCC Art Gallery

The Bunker Hill Community College Art Gallery is free and open to the public, located at the Community College stop on the MBTA Orange Line.

Gallery hours: M/W/F: 11 - 4 p.m. T/Th: 1 - 6:00 p.m. Sat: 11 - 2:00 p.m.

250 New Rutherford Avenue • 617-228-2093 • www.bhcc.mass.edu/artgallery

