

The Columbus Dispatch

EVENTS

League presents cohesive display

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Presenting the work of 18 members, the Ohio Art League Curated Exhibition demonstrates the diversity of established and emerging artists in central Ohio.

The pieces for the Riffe Gallery exhibit were selected by Dennis Harrington, director of the Weston Art Gallery in Cincinnati.

In his curator's statement, Harrington says his goal was to provide "a thought-provoking and inspiring artistic sampling of the many creative approaches artists employ in communicating their insightful and thoughtful observations of the world around us." Although such an open-ended curatorial method could spell disaster, his choices fit together surprisingly well.

In terms of both structure and shape, formal connections exist among several pieces. Gretchen Stevens Cochran's *Remaining Balance: Bounty or Burden* and Denise Buckley's *Maiden* rely on stacking and balance.

Some of the most compelling works are photographs that comment on broader social conditions.

Paul D. Wilber's *Car Wash, One Dollar* features a boarded-up body shop on a lonely stretch of road. The scene is end-of-the-world eerie. Reflecting economic struggles, it shows a formerly active business abandoned and in disrepair.

Capturing a once-proud symbol of agricultural bounty, Steven Elbert's *Grain Elevator, Columbus, OH* raises questions of sustainability and the collapse of systems.

Reports of China's economic expansion are widespread. Yet the societal consequences of such growth remain virtually invisible in the West. In his series of documentary photographs, Frederick Marsh records vanishing family businesses and homes in

Guangzhou, China. As high-rise apartments and offices swallow up neighborhoods, the way of life depicted in the image *Alley Shops, Wholesale Shopping District, Guangzhou, People's Republic of China* is in danger of disappearing.

Jonathan Johnson's *Backyard Topographic III*, which enlarges clumps of backyard plants, calls attention to the often-overlooked structures in our lives.

Kathy McGhee's intaglio-photogravure print *Trees and Water I*, depicting a stand of trees submerged in water, highlights the notion of in-between spaces.

Also included in the exhibit are works by Ellen O'Connell Bazzoli, Agnes Burris, Alex Conrad, Nicole Crock, Paul Emory, Morris Jackson, Jonah Jacobs, Tamara Jaeger, Virginia Kistler, Ardine Nelson and Marc Ross.

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