Bakersfield College Student Art Exhibition – Goes Digital!

The directors of the Wiley and May Louise Jones Gallery at Bakersfield College are pleased to present the 2020 Bakersfield College Art Student Exhibition. The Jones Gallery shows a diverse range of visual art produced by contemporary artists living and working outside of Kern Country with annual shows devoted to the artworks of Bakersfield College art students, Kern County High School art students (The Panorama Invitational) and a biannual show of the work of the Bakersfield College Fine Arts Faculty.

“This exhibit represents the commitment and strength of our students in the face of uncertain times. Bakersfield College students are leading the way in building a sense of community while we adjust to new norms of social interaction in the age of social distancing,” said the Jones Gallery Directors Ronnie Wrest and Jeff Huston.

The exhibit showcases artwork created by students enrolled in Bakersfield College art courses, with media spanning charcoal drawings, acrylic paintings, photography, graphic design, ceramics and video. Santa Fe, New Mexico based artist, Sage Paisner, Executive Director of Foto Forum Santa Fe, full time faculty at California State Summer School for the Arts, and special faculty at CalArts, juried the work.

Kern Community District Trustee, Nan Gomez-Heitzberg, praised Bakersfield College’s art students and faculty for their work, stating, “The arts have historically taken center stage as a source of creativity and inspiration. This is especially important during difficult times. Ensuring that student artwork can reach the community and the world through a digital forum is truly commendable. I plan to support student artists by visiting the Bakersfield College virtual gallery and invite everyone to join me.”

In past years, this exhibition has been held on campus at the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery located in the Grace Van Dyke Byrd Library. As Bakersfield College’s physical campus has closed and all instruction and support services have moved to an online environment, this will be the first digital exhibition held by the Jones Gallery.

“It is an honor to have my piece selected by artist Sage Paisner for display in the student exhibit,” said student Isai Figueroa. “When the campus was closed due to COVID-19, I was really concerned we would lose the opportunity to show our work, but Bakersfield College and the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery found a solution with the digital exhibition. It just goes to show how much they value the work we do and the passion we put into our art.”

The Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery student art exhibit launched on April 2nd, 12 p.m. Pacific Standard Time and can be accessed on the following sites:

- jonesgallery.tumblr.com/
- www.instagram.com/thejonesgallery
- www.facebook.com/wmljonesgallery/
- www.twitter.com/TheJonesGallery

For more information please visit the website at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/art/student-exhibition or contact jonesgallery@gmail.com.