

Artist and Bachelor of Fine Arts **student** at the University of Missouri Allison Reinhart currently has a show at the Craft Studio Gallery in Memorial Union. I recently went to see the show and chatted with her via email, and have included bits of that conversation and my thoughts on her work below. Her show runs through tomorrow, with a reception this afternoon.

The **artist** has somehow managed to fill the small gallery space with larger-than-life personality and **talent**, and has connected her personal **voice** eloquently into the larger history of art and culture. I literally stopped in the doorway and caught my breath when I walked through the door. That doesn't often happen to me.

Reinhart has made use of text and technology, of plaster cast traditions and cultural symbolism in her work. The result is a widely varied body of work with a strangely cohesive feel. It feels each work is not exactly individual, but elements crafted as facets of a more complex work. There are recurring visual themes and variations, and conceptual allusions.

Color is skillfully used to draw attention and provoke thought or emotion. Incomplete or fragmented figures are included in many of the works. The eye slips beyond the picture plane, where a foot or the crown of a head should extend, for example.

There's a sense that Reinhart wants to connect and communicate, to really get visitors to have an introspective moment and find meaning in her work. The suggestive symbols are powerful enough to evoke certain controlled responses, but there's enough room left for personal interpretation. I am actually hesitant to begin to delve into meaning so as to avoid creating a disservice to the **artist's voice** or to a personal experience of the work as it stands. Part of the magnetism of this show is its creative puzzle.

Below is a bit of a conversation I conducted with Reinhart via email.

Tribune: What's the emphasis area for your degree, and why did you choose that?

Reinhart: My emphasis is in graphic design. It's a good major because it gives you the opportunity to try out different media. The point of good graphic design is to communicate visually. That's a skill valuable to any **artist**. **Tribune:** Did you start out in school with the idea to study art, or have you shifted gears? Reinhart: Art major from the beginning. I've played with the idea of a few different minors, but art has always been my major. **Tribune:** What are your earliest memories of making art? Reinhart: I was always interested in drawing. I made little drawings, kid stuff. I'd fold them up and address them to one or both of my parents. "To: Mom, From: Allison" kind of thing. My earliest memory experiment with Art-with-a-capital-A, I remember seeing something on the local news about a guy leaving paper on sidewalks for people to walk on. The pieces of paper with all the shoe prints, he called art. I was probably 5, give or take a year or two. I made my own running over paper with my wheelchair. I just remembered that. It's actually really fitting given there are a couple relief prints in the show that I printed by running over them with my chair. The tire tracks are visible in the margins. **Tribune:** How much time do you spend in the studio? For class? For personal creation? Reinhart: I have a hard time shutting off. My brain is always going in its "ball of ideas" as Paul McCarthy put it. I have assignments, of course, but I try as much as I can to incorporate my own work into the classes I take. For practicality's sake, I mostly work **at** home. **Tribune:** How does your artwork reflect who you are, as a person? How does it relate back to your life, and how do life experiences inform your art? Reinhart: I think I use art to make sense of things.

CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Wilder, Amy. "Student artist at MU projects talent and voice." *Columbia Daily Tribune (MO)*, sec. Art Axis, 7 Feb. 2013.

NewsBank: America's News, https://infoweb-newsbank-com.proxy.dbrl.org/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info%3AAsid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=NewsBank&req_dat=0D2F4E8F71B506AA&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/fmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Anews/161FA1318443A4F0.

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