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FSU artists' work exhibited in China

FSU artists featured in first American exhibit in art museum in China

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Issue date: 7/30/07 **Section:** [News](#)

The Florida State University College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance has struck again, becoming the first Americans to have art exhibited in one of China's largest art museums.

The tag-team consists of Holly Hanessian, FSU associate professor of Art; Carrie Ann Baade, FSU assistant professor of Art; and Andrew Ross, graduate student. Each is known for their large-scale ceramic art, surrealistic paintings and commercial photography, respectfully.

The works of the artists were featured this past June in China's Ningbo Museum of Art. The Ningbo Museum of Art is a not-for-profit museum in Zhejiang in the People's Republic of China, which, "through displaying, collecting, researching and promoting the excellent works by virtuosos from home and abroad, (strives) to build the museum into one of top-class museums in the nation and one with its unique features."

By including the work of the FSU artists - who were later named "the Mayflowers" by the director of the

Ningbo Museum - the Ningbo Museum is reportedly working on accomplishing its mission. The artists' works remained on display for 10 days.

All of the featured artists are no amateurs to the field. Hanessian has work featured in the Yixing Museum in Yixing, China. The artwork in the Yixing Museum was a part of a collection. Her featured work in the Ningbo Museum was her first solo display. With expression of the satisfaction of ceramic art as it pertains to its history in China, Hanessian said she plans "to curate three shows in China in 2008, and in 2009, (hopes) to return to work there for a time."

Ross' display consisted of black-and-white photos he called, "Transience." He has taught an art course in China at the Taiyuan Normal University, and they have since named him an Honorary Professor in Art.

Ross said the experience has been a rewarding one for him, as he understands the importance of eastern and western cultures being familiar with the other. Ross said that he hopes to share what he has photographed in both China and America so he may "eventually bring both sets together as a single body of work."

Baade's display called "Virtues and Vices" was a collection of oil paintings. She, like her counterparts, said she found the experience to be a great one.

"It was exhilarating to meet conservative artists in China who are finding their voices as individuals," Baade said. "Florida State's art department is building a 'dream team' that will make it one of the country's top state programs."

This latest recognition is one milestone in achieving that goal.

"(This) reflects the caliber of FSU's College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, and our commitment to international cultural exchange," said Joe Sanders, chairman of FSU's Art Department.

For more information about studio art at FSU, go to www.fsu.edu/~cvatd. For information about the Ningbo Museum, go to www.eng.nma.org. To see images of the artwork of Professor Holly Hanessian, visit www.hollyhanessian.com.

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