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Art exhibit features race, politics

“This show is not only about art but also about something that all campus might be interested in. This art exhibit is very provocative and challenging, but also visually exciting and entertaining.”

BY HÉLÈNE BIELAK
Staff Reporter

Opheia Parrish Art Gallery welcomed a new exhibit featuring The American Race Art on Oct. 20. Gallery director Aaron Fine has gathered the works of 11 artists for the commemorative year of Lincoln's bicentennial.

Fine said that when he heard this year was Lincoln's commemoration he decided to put on a show dealing with current events like the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Obama's inauguration is an interesting event to look at races in America, Fine said.

"It was not a contest to get in the show. The 11 artists are those who created the most interesting dialogue, raised the most interesting questions about race. For example, Chido Johnson, who is living in Detroit but comes from Zimbabwe, brought a longer, historical perspective on race, about Western and non-Western interactions in the global scale on topics like slave trade and colonialism."

Fine said the exhibit reflects a change in literature about race. If in the 1980s writing about race was predominated in the United States by preoccupations with black and white debates, Fine said now there is more focus on the multiple aspects of race, notably on whiteness.

"This show is not only about art but also about something that all campus might be interested in," Fine said. "This art exhibit is very provocative and challenging, but also visually exciting and entertaining."

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Big Week of Giving helps Missouri

BY JENNIFER LEWIS
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of canned goods rolled in from all over campus last week from students, faculty and Kirksville residents, whose donations will eventually fill the stomachs of Missouri families in need.

The Big Week of Giving is an annual event conducted by Truman's SERVE Center with the intent to raise money and collect canned goods for the Central Missouri Food Bank.

Located in Columbia, the Central Missouri Food Bank distributes food to 32 counties in Missouri. Senior Lindsey Tauer, a Big Week of Giving committee member for the SERVE Center, said that this year the Big Week brought in 30,000 pounds of food, not counting monetary donations from other groups. The donations will stay in the state and for the use of Missouri residents.

"There's a lot of people within Missouri that are

below the poverty lines, that really can't feed themselves without donations," Tauer said. "We really stressed that with \$1, you can buy 15 meals or 20 pounds of food, so donations can really stretch."

Another committee member, sophomore Elizabeth Kroeger, said poverty is not only high in the state, but is also a problem right here in Kirksville.

"Adair County is one of the poorest counties in Missouri, so you'd really be surprised at how many people benefit from this just right in Kirksville," Kroeger said.

Throughout the week, the SERVE Center manned a table in the SUB for collecting food and monetary donations and positioned bins in the Student Recreation Center, the Newman Center and the convenience stores for students and faculty to drop off canned goods.

This year's Big Week of Giving progressed in a somewhat different manner than it has previously. Prior to this year, service-based organizations often helped the SERVE Center with the donation tables. Kroeger said they had not planned on changing the structure of the event, but unforeseen complications made it necessary.

"Part of it was that none of us who are on the committee have ever done it before and, in looking at notes from years past, they just said, 'Go earlier,' because

service organizations don't have time to plan if you ask two weeks ahead of time," Kroeger said. "Now we feel like maybe we actually asked too early this year and people forgot about it, and then when we came around to ask again, they had already committed to something else. So we changed it out of necessity, but I still feel like even though it's different, we're still getting the results that we wanted."

Several sororities, fraternities and other organizations still assisted with collecting food and raising money. Tau Lambda Sigma and Phi Kappa Theta hosted food drives and went door-to-door around the neighborhood. The Panhellenic Council held a canned food drive with a twist called Operation Pump-Can, a contest in which competitors attempted to compose artistic creations from the cans they collected. Alpha Kappa Lambda also will turn over all the money it earned with its haunted house to the SERVE Center for donation to the Central Missouri Food Bank. Kroeger said Alpha Kappa Lambda was one of the biggest contributors to the Big Week of Giving.

"I think we probably couldn't have done it without them," Kroeger said. "A few of their guys are members of the SERVE Center, and actually one of them is involved on the committee with Big Week. They've been so helpful."

Junior Andrew Broderick is a member of both AKL and the SERVE Center. He said donating the funds from AKL's haunted house to charity is not a new occurrence, but working alongside the SERVE Center is.

"AKL has been doing the haunted house for over 20 years," Broderick said. "We always give the proceeds to a charity, though the charity changes from year to year. Last year our proceeds went to the Food Bank, and the SERVE Center is doing the same thing, so it made sense to work together."

The Big Week culminated in Hungerfest, a concert that pulled together talent from across Truman, including University Swingers, Manhattan, SUEDE, High-street Dancers, Minor Detail and Sweet Nothings. A representative of the Central Missouri Food Bank also was present to talk to students about poverty.

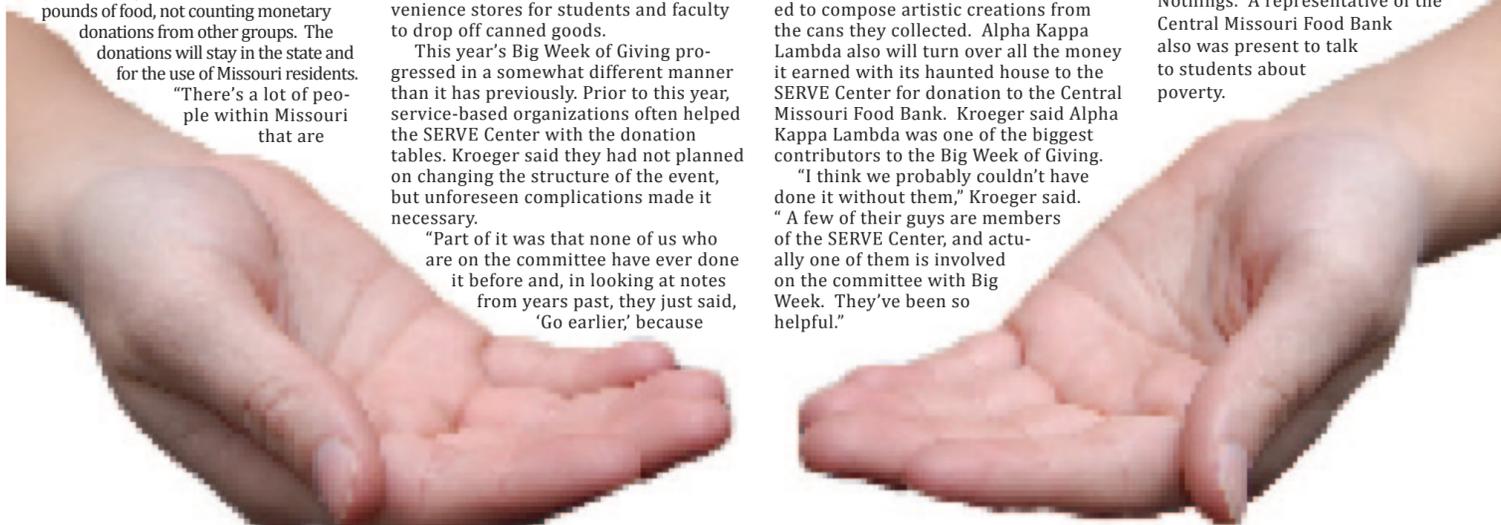


Photo Illustration by Brian O'Shaughnessy, Antoniette Bedessie