



Sam Gorden/Index

Junior Olivia Brady views the Cross Connections Art Exchange at a reception Oct. 16 in the University Art Gallery. The gallery features art from eight universities across the globe.

# Technology helps spread graphic art

Truman's art gallery features digital displays of global art

BY TAYLOR THOMPSON  
Staff Reporter

To show the advantages of the digital age and its effect on art, Truman State is participating in an international art exchange.

Right now in Truman State's Art Gallery, spectators can view an international exchange of visual communication and graphic design, thanks to digital technology people in China, Australia and the United States can view these pieces of art at the same time as part of the second annual Cross Connections Art Exchange.

The Cross Connections Art Exchange includes eight universities from around the globe. It contains art from the University of Texas-Arlington, the University of Texas-Pan American, Central Academy of Fine Arts (China), Shanghai University (China), Sint Lucas Ghent (Belgium), National School of Fine Arts (Mexico) and Truman. Cross Connections is using digital technology to foster an appreciation for visual communication and graphic design, while simultane-

ously producing art exhibits at all universities involved.

"It's odd for all the art to be shared," sophomore Duncan Holahan said. "However, I think it's an interesting and convenient way of presenting art."

Most of the art is graphic design-oriented, Holahan said. It makes sense that the art was shared digitally, considering it centers around a field of art that requires digital technology to produce, Holahan said.

"This a spectacle of global connections, and I feel this really shows how we can use art and technology to communicate," art professor Aaron Fine said.

Instead of shipping the art, the artists involved saved all of their files digitally, Fine said. The artists then emailed their artwork to the universities involved with the Exchange. After receiving the artwork, the universities printed and mounted each individual piece, Fine said.

"I think a cool thing about this show is it gives us an opportunity to look at the way visual communication does and doesn't work," Fine said. "Most of these objects communicate to us pretty clearly because they are predominately visual. However, sometimes there are visual jokes we don't get, or you can't read the text because

it's in another language."

This exhibit is another by-product of the digital age, senior Tracy Cheung said. Without digital technology, the majority of art in this exhibit would not exist. It's only logical that art that is created digitally be distributed digitally, Cheung said.

"I think art exchanges like these will become more and more prominent as time progresses," Cheung said. "Art was meant to be shared. It's an experience. Digital distribution, such as Cross Connections, allows art to reach a greater audience."

Exchanges such as Cross Connections bring validity to digital art, Cheung said. People tend to believe that because an image was made on a computer it is less artistic. By devoting an exhibit to digital art people can begin to appreciate the artistic ability that goes into visual communication and graphic design Cheung said.

Art can have multiple meanings, Fine said. Because international universities are involved, this can further increase the chances of multiple interpretations. If you don't understand the artist's motivation for the piece, then you can develop a different interpretation. This isn't a positive or negative, it's simply the nature of art, Fine said.

# Survivor shares Holocaust story

BY DANIELLE BRESHEARS  
Staff Reporter

To help people remember the events of the Holocaust, Jerry Koenig, a survivor of these events, will be presenting his story tonight for the Truman State and Kirksville community. Koenig, 82, will tell the story of his life and struggles during and will share his story at 7 p.m. tonight in Baldwin Auditorium.

Jerry endured the Holocaust after he was put into a ghetto in Warsaw, Poland with his brother, mother and father, and his paternal grandfather, he said.

Before the Holocaust his family owned a 60-acre farm as well as other small land plots, he said.

He tells the story of his family's journey all the way from the Warsaw ghetto to the final liberation of the Jewish people with a 22-month hideaway in between, Jerry said.

"The story doesn't change, the outcome doesn't change," Jerry said. "It's an ugly story with a good outcome. I'm here."

Truman Hillel brought Jerry to campus, junior Erin Cohen, president of Hillel, said.

She found Jerry by contacting the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center.

Cohen said she thinks younger generations don't pay as much tribute to history as they should.

"I think that we're like 'oh, it was a long time ago so what does it matter to me,'" Cohen said.

Cohen said she knows the importance of remembering.

"The motto of the Holocaust is to remember, to never forget," she said. "You can know all the facts and you can see all the museums, but to hear firsthand what that experience was like is just unbelievable. Every single time it's just life-changing."

Jerry said he thinks that it isn't just our generation that seems to forget history's importance.

"I'll be the first to admit that when I was a youngster and my dad talked about living through World War I it just sounded like ancient history and maybe not as important as what was going on now," he said.

Telling his story to younger people who are interested in hearing it is gratifying, Jerry said. After recently travelling to speak at a



Linda and Jerry Koenig

high school in St. Louis, he said the amount of interest students show is incredible.

"The teacher [of those high school students] made a special effort to look at history," Jerry said.

Jerry said he usually travels to a couple places each month, including universities, church groups and book clubs. He stays in Missouri, specifically around the St. Louis area, for the most part, he said.

Sharing his story keeps Jerry and fellow survivors alive, he said. He said that by remembering the past, people from history are kept alive through education, stories and personal memories.

"Let's face it, it won't be much longer and the survivors will be a thing of the past," he said.

Jerry's wife, Linda Koenig, is the reason he travels and shares his story, he said. He said he told Linda his story while they were dating and she felt it was a story that other people should hear.

"I 100 percent encourage and support Jerry's telling of his compelling story," Linda said. "People tend to forget the personal side of war and injustice. Visiting and talking with someone who actually experienced this sordid period of 20th century inhumanity brings history to life, in hopes of helping to prevent similar behavior again."

Linda, a guide at the St. Louis Holocaust Museum, travels with Jerry whenever she has the opportunity, she said.

"Travelling often, it's nice to have a copilot, someone to be guiding and cautionary," Jerry said.

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