Art students face review

Kalen Ponche
Assistant Features Editor

Inity drove artist Vincent Van Gogh to his insane asylum, but for art upper-class Truman students this week, it was drive-in judging through Proficiency Review.

Thirty-five studio art and visual communications majors went through Proficiency Review this week. Students had to pass the faculty review of their artwork to enroll in 100-level and above classes.

Michelle Salzman, sophomore art major, submitted a five-piece portfolio, which she said was a "lot of work," and is now feeling stressed and uncertain if they will pass.

"I think most people are pretty scared about proficiency," sophomore Chris Marshall said. "I think there's a lot of pressure to go through it, but it's not really graded. The fear is if you don't pass, you can't go up to upper-level art classes."

Salzman and other art upper-class students had to choose five pieces from each of their courses. The students then gave their ballot to the professor to see those pieces.

"One of the criteria is to make sure the students know their strengths and weaknesses," James Pauls, professor of art, said. "There are times in the assessment test for students. He said it also allows them to look at the program to see how students are working with the other projects. But if the review allows the pro-
messengers to make sure the students know their strengths and weaknesses."

"(The Proficiency Review) is there to prevent problems later," Pauls said. "If you see problems with one upper-level class, then you can add it. If you have a problem now, we can fix it. We're giving an open ear and to solve a problem, it's almost too late."

"I think most people are pretty scared about proficiency... The fear is if you don't pass you can't go up to upper-level classes," said Tina Hennen, sophomore art major.

"I think there's a lot of pressure," Salzman said. "A lot of people who aren't artists don't understand that."

Salzman's pieces vary from a self-portrait, a trait to a woman's blazer covered in fabric, and an oil painting of a teacher's desk. She said she is most proud of the self-portrait.

"I laid out all my artwork from each class," Salzman said. "I think there's a lot of work there."

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