

Graphic design professor exhibits recent work

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Fred Troller, professor of graphic design and chairman of the Division of Graphic Design in the School of Art and Design, Alfred University, is presenting "Recent Works: Masks, Motorcycles, Bulldogs" through Feb. 23 at the Greenwich (CT) Library's Flinn Gallery. While Alfred University and area audiences know Troller best as a graphic designer, he is also a painter and sculptor. Using muted linear pastels on paper, Troller "conveys both symbolism and movement – with masks, their function to hide the real or imaginary; with motorcycles, their speed, noise and riders' bravado; and with bulldogs, their irascibility and tenacity," according to one reviewer. Inspiration for the series of mask drawings came from an antique African mask Troller received as a gift from his wife in 1997. However, the "concept of masks and their relationship to the image of man" has intrigued Troller for years. "The material mask disintegrates and reveals the true identity of the masked man without the mask. In other words, his face becomes a mask again, but with a new and different meaning." A billboard in downtown Sao Paulo, Brazil, inspired the motorcycle series, images of motion and sound suggesting "explosive segments of a motorcycle speeding down a highway without actually showing the material machine or rider." His travels to Brazil also led to the bulldog series, which are based on decals he spotted on trucks, and which show a progression from a more literal representation of an animal to a symbolic representation of what he sees as macho truckers' prowess, irascibility and tenacity. Educated at the Zurich College of Art in his native Switzerland, Troller had a distinguished career as a graphic designer before becoming a full-time faculty member at Alfred University's School of Art and Design, one of the top-rated art schools in the United States. He has exhibited his work in the United States and abroad, and won awards of excellence from the New York Art Directors Club, Typomundus and the American Institute of Graphic Artists. The Greenwich Library is located at 101 W. Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT. Additional information may be obtained by calling 203 622 7947.