

AU ceramic art students to exhibit work at Ontario Arts Council gallery

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"Feminine, Feminist and Femininity," an exhibition of work by a group of Alfred University women, all seniors working in the clay studio at Alfred, will open Feb. 15 at the Ontario County Arts Council gallery in Canandaigua. An opening reception is planned for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at the gallery, located at 65 Main St., Canandaigua. The exhibition will remain open through March 1. The AU seven art students (see editor's note, page 3) originally organized "Feminine, Feminist and Femininity" for an exhibition in the Robert Turner Gallery in Harder Hall, and were invited to take it to the Canandaigua gallery. The title of the exhibition "reflects the diversity of ideas and definitions of identity that young women art students must consider," according to the organizers. "The work demonstrates the diversity of approaches contemporary artists can explore, finding inspiration in everything from traditional vessels to sculptural work that can be beautiful, politically charged and even humorous." Artists whose work is featured are: Sarah Blitz, Thea Eck, Kim Greene, Courtney Leonard, Mary Pollack, Stephanie Rozene, and Kim West. Blitz, a resident of Vestal, NY, is an Alfred University Presidential Scholar who is exploring the delicate and functional aspects of pottery. Eck, who is from the Pittsburgh area, is a student in AU's Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts program. Her work focuses on light, structure and presentation, and includes other materials in addition to clay. Greene, an engineer-turned-artist, will show a group of elegant, abstract vessels as well as a large sculptural work. Leonard, who transferred to Alfred University from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, presents sculptures, such as "Native Ichnography (NDN Angel with Brick)," that comment on her heritage and culture as a female member of the Shinnecock tribe. Pollack, when not in the classrooms and studios at AU, is co-owner of Lost Angel Glass in Corning. Her colorful, large, three-tiered ceramic cakes are irreverent and fun. Rozene, who was a recipient of the Marcianne Maple Miller Scholarship to attend Haystack School of Crafts, combines her interest in pottery forms with a love of decorative patterns. She carefully layers colorful slips and glazes to create an active surface. West, who is from South Carolina, has found a way to express herself in clay that comments on household objects identified with women's lives. Trash cans, blenders, and other things are interpreted in pink and white, translated into ceramic materials. The ceramic art program is part of the School of Art and Design at Alfred University, and is regarded as one of the best in the country. The Master of Fine Arts degree program is ranked number one for ceramic art and fifth overall nationally by US News and World Report. Additional information about the ceramic art program at Alfred University may be obtained by visiting <http://art.alfred.edu.Abo...> the artists: Sarah Blitz, a senior art major in the School of Art and Design, is a daughter of Linda Liddle of Vestal and Dr. Robert P. Blitz of Bainbridge. Blitz is a graduate of Vestal Senior High School. Thea A. Eck, a senior fine arts major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is a daughter of Theodore and Janet Eck of Gibsonia, PA. She is a graduate of Pine-Richland High School. Kimberly A. Greene, Courtney M. Leonard and Mary R. Pollock are all senior art majors in the School of Art and Design. They live in Alfred. Stephanie A. Rozene, a senior art major in the School of Art and Design, is a daughter of Richard and Wendy Rozene of Fox Run Road, Cumberland, ME. She is a graduate of Greely High School. Kimberly A. West, a senior art major in the School of Art and Design, is a former resident of Highland Falls, NY, and attended James I. O'Neill High School. Her parents, Richard and Mary West, now make their home in Florence, SC.