

We have the privilege of making noise

TESS LIVOLSI AMORUSO'S ART EXPEDITION KICKS OFF THE NEW SEMESTER

BY MARTIN TUCKER
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"It would be a shame to start the year with a dark space," said photographer and artist Tess Livolsi Amoruso as she examined each of her artworks in her exhibit "Multiple Exposures" piece by piece. Since Jan. 18, 2011, the Student Art Gallery has been glowing with Amoruso's diptychs and triptychs, which are images intended to be shown together. She admits to originally being hesitant as she felt the need to "let the kids do it," as she is a graduate student and accomplished artist in her own right.

Casey Lee, sociology major and Student Art Gallery employee, said, "It's nice to have an exhibit for ODU students", and said her favorite piece is "Sunflower Seed," while arguing that "I Am (after Magritte)" is the most popular.

The late William Dobell, Australia's famous artist, once said, "A sincere artist is not one who makes a faithful attempt to put on to canvas what is in front of him (her), but one who tries to create something which is, in itself, a living thing." This is remarkably what Amoruso's exhibit is accomplishing.

"The Green Man", one of the more popular pieces, uses Celtic legends to combine the face of a middle aged man and a tall tree to instill a sort of peace that can only be recreated deep in

some endless forest. With its counterpart, "The Green Lady", Amoruso said, "We're in nature and nature is in us," a theme she follows into a trilogy of pieces that are disappointingly positioned inwards away from the window.

"All Breathe Air", "All Eat Earth" and "All Are Blood" help to defend Amoruso's idea that "we're all made up of the common stuff of the earth...one of the most obvious facts of our being." She struggles with how such a simple truth is taking so long to be accepted by all of humanity. The pieces each juxtapose faces with a ravishing sunset of light painting itself onto the atmosphere, an enormous tree and deep blue world under the sea. Amoruso hopes to include the environmental message that, we have to honor the resources we came from.

Levitating above the heads of all who would enter is a series of "Floating Sticks", which Amoruso admits is her most experimental out of all the pieces. Struck with the problem of creating a "sense of presence" and "integrating with space," Amoruso glared over her yard to find the perfect answer: twigs. Using broken branches that have been abandoned by nature, Amoruso gives them the ability of flight or at the very least hang on a fishing line.

Amoruso notes some of her inspirations as the "natural world" which "quiets the mind and connects in nature, meditation techniques and the "industrial world." She believes that as artists "we have the privilege of making noise" and must "make an optimistic noise." As one of the last participants in the MFA Graduate Art Program due to the tragic closing of the program at ODU, Amoruso who is never without a cheerful



Tess Livolsi Amoruso art gallery pieces.

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smile and a genuine interest in the well being of others is a serious artist. Don't be fooled by the cookies, fruit, soda and chocolate donuts at her reception, Amoruso gets down to business with a compassionate heart and a sharp camera.

Only the future knows what Tess Livolsi Amoruso holds for the worlds of art and photog-

raphy, but her June 3 Visual Arts Center Thesis show, "Any Space, Any Place, Virtual Pilgrimage", boasts "all new work" and a stunning harvest of her journey to Southern India. If nothing else, it will be interesting to see what will come from the artist who jokingly refers to "Lilith" in her diptych and said, "she got a bad rap."