

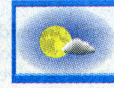
WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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■ Weather, Page 24

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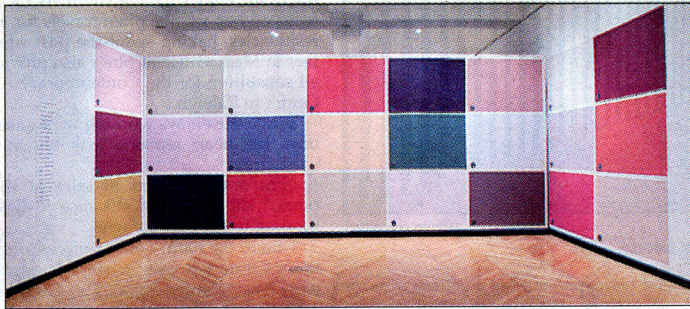


Photo submitted

Dynamic use of color can be found in Jody Servon's work.

Jody Servon receives state arts grant

BY SCOTT NICHOLSON
nicholson@wataugademocrat.com

A local artist has been selected for a North Carolina Arts Council grant, which may help her expand the equipment used in creating her multimedia works.

Jody Servon is director of Appalachian State University's Catherine Smith Gallery and is also

an art professor at the college in Boone.

Servon was one of 16 artists selected for 2006 fellowship awards, receiving \$8,000 to continue her work.

She was one of 325 applicants for the awards.

Servon, who lives in Blowing Rock, first started art while going through the school system

in New Jersey.

Her parents were both educators, and her mom taught her crafts, often hosting quilting parties.

She continued studying art in high school and college, but it wasn't until she spent a semester with no art classes that she realized the intensity of its appeal.

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ASU GALLERY DIRECTOR JODY SERVON RECEIVES ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

From page 1

Servon creates "installation" pieces that aren't easily fit to most galleries. Whereas many artists specialize in a discipline, such as oil painting or metal sculpture, Servon builds her exhibit pieces from whole cloth, sometimes literally.

Her last installation, "Hanging On and Holding Out," featured painted and tape walls, projected video, sound, drawings, photographs and sculptures, with the elements collected over several years and the arrangement made to help her deal with the death of her father.

Another recent project was "Likeness," an arrangement of 24 framed photographs that detail her fascination with the selection of portraits and how those selections represent the subject.

She got the idea when rival newspapers ran different pictures of Mary Beth Whitehead, who was controversial for her role in a test-tube baby case. One photo showed a joyful expression and the other a more sinister expression.

"I see what goes on around me and get ideas," Servon said, adding that she often has the full piece in her mind, but it will change once she begins working with the materials.

"I'll have a pretty good idea of what I want and I spend some time in the space before I start. I move things around a lot.

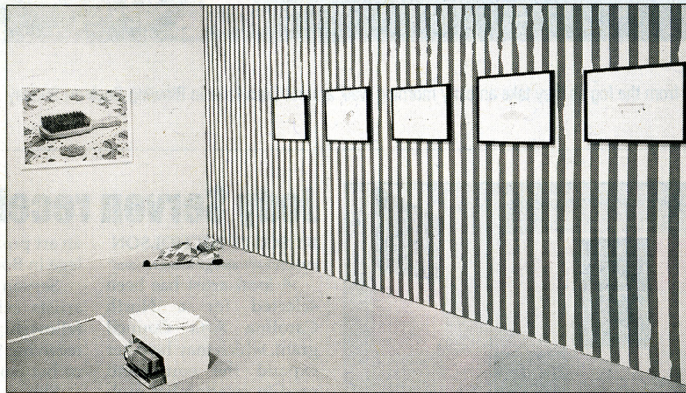


Photo submitted

Most of Jody Servon's artworks are "installation pieces."

It's like doing a drawing and erasing."

She received an undergraduate degree in painting and credits encouraging professors for her foray into other materials, earning her a graduate degree in "new genres."

Servon is in her third year as director of the Catherine Smith Gallery, and she said the university environment inspires her, especially in observing the reactions of students to different types of art.

A self-described "problem solver," she

said her experience as a gallery director has helped her research appropriate places to show her work, since it can't hang in a typical gallery.

"It's more of a challenge to find places," she said. "Most galleries are not equipped for it and the work needs different kinds of attention. You have to start a film projector instead of just turning on the lights. I do spend a lot of time looking around, and it requires research to find places that are appropriate."

As gallery director, Servon is part of a committee that agrees on the types of shows to host each year. Three shows are scheduled each year for student work, including the Senior Show, which Servon said prepares them for going out and showing their work in other galleries.

Though she's on a tenure professor track, she enjoys having summers off to focus on her art. She often travels for art residencies, having spent the past summer in Massachusetts. She's also provided consulting for the Contemporary Art Center in Raleigh.

While she enjoys working with museums, her heart remains with her own work first.

"I'm not interested in sales at this point," she said. "So, it's nice to have funding to support the work."

Due to the nature of her pieces, often there's little left over when the exhibit ends. For "Family Colors," she was left with empty paint cans, and she has packed away "Items matching [ART]," in which she purchased 130 different pieces sold on eBay as "art."

Servon plans to use her grant money on an undetermined project, possibly buying better video or photography equipment.

The deadline for the next round of fellowship awards is Nov. 1.