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Website Takes Galleries' Lewandowski Exhibition into Local K-12 Classrooms

Winthrop University

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Website Takes Galleries' Lewandowski Exhibition into Local K-12 Classrooms

Quick Facts

- The educational website, includes art, S.C. history and general history components to allow Rock Hill District 3 K-12 teachers work Lewandowski's art into their curriculum.



Lewandowski was chair of Winthrop's Department of Art and Design from 1973-84.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - When the classroom can't come to the exhibition, sometimes the exhibition can go to the classroom – online.

That was the idea fueling the creation of an educational website, <http://www.birdnest.org/Lewandowski>, based on **Winthrop University Galleries'** three-month "**Edmund Lewandowski – Precisionism and Beyond**" exhibition. Designed by Department of Fine Arts faculty members Greg Schauble and Mark Hamilton, the website provides art, South

Carolina history and general history components that **Rock Hill District 3 K-12 teachers** can work into their curriculum.

Past exhibitions have offered grade-level educational components for local students, including bussing students to the galleries to see artwork and hear presentations. Reduced funding has made such trips more difficult, so one year ago **Department of Fine Arts** chair **Tom Stanley** met with art educators in **District 3** to initiate the idea of creating a website. Schauble and Hamilton handled the site's design while several fine arts faculty members developed an educator's guide to how to work Lewandowski into their curriculum.

The goal, **Stanley** noted, was to create a **permanent website** with information so that teachers could use the site and customize the information to fit their curriculum. At an Oct. 8 in-service, **District 3** teachers visited the galleries for a walk-through of the exhibition, a hands-on lesson plan workshop, a talk by Jimmy Matthews, one of **Lewandowski's** former students and an overview of how to use the website.

The site includes a detailed biography on **Lewandowski's** life and career; sections on the Works Progress Administration murals the Precisionist painter created in Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin as well as **Lewandowski's** mosaics (including images); a gallery of select **Lewandowski** works from 1937-98; an educator's guide to teaching about **Lewandowski**, his art, process, techniques and historical relevance; and a film that documents **Lewandowski's** artistic process in 1939 from the initial small image to completion of the large-scale mural "S.S. President Van Buren."

Both the website and the exhibition capture **Lewandowski's** enduring affinity for the industrial landscape, said **Stanley**.

"Ed really loved the idea of the man-made and objects, and in much of his work you see that clearly," he explained. "His work says something about a particular time and place that in a digital age doesn't

exist quite the same way."

Stanley said that the website will remain online indefinitely for Rock Hill educators to use in their curriculum. He hopes that **Lewandowski** and his art will become infused into the curriculum.

"Ed oftentimes described his version of Precisionism as a means of documenting the industrial age of this country," **Stanley** said. "His artwork is a historical record."

"**Edmund Lewandowski – Precisionism and Beyond**" has been made possible in part by Williams and Fudge, Inc., Rock Hill and other donors.

For more information about "**Edmund Lewandowski – Precisionism and Beyond**," contact Karen Derksen, gallery director, at 803/323-2493 or derksen@winthrop.edu.

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