Fall 9-24-2013

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Recommended Citation
Winthrop University, "Fine Arts Chair Draws on High School Class for Inspiration in New Exhibit" (2013). Winthrop News 2013. 189.
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Fine Arts Chair Draws on High School Class for Inspiration in New Exhibit

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Artist and Winthrop University Department of Fine Arts Chair Tom Stanley had once thought of being an engineer due to the excellent work he produced in his high school’s mechanical drawing classes, a talent that earned him the nickname “Superscale.”

“Untitled Drawings,” his new exhibit that pays homage to that time in his life, will be on display Sept. 27-Nov. 26 at the Fine Arts Center’s Sheffield Wood Gallery in Greenville, S.C.

The acrylic on canvas paintings are a “response not only to how I perceive my world at a particular point in time, they are also a response to mechanical drawings from long ago,” a time when he had not thought about becoming a painter or artist, Stanley said in his artist statement.

Stanley was fascinated with drawing tools such as T-squares, compasses and triangles. He spent some of his Saturdays in the machine shop where his father worked and filed blueprint drawings. After earning degrees in the arts from the University of South Carolina, he served on the faculties at Arkansas College and Barry University in Miami, Fla.

He joined the Winthrop community in 1990 as the first director of the Winthrop Galleries. Stanley is now chair of the Department of Fine Arts and a professor. His paintings have been published in New American Painting editions, and his work has been featured in the S.C. State Museum, Duke University, S.C. Arts Commission and B.F. Goodrich, to name a few.

An opening reception for “Untitled Drawings” will be Friday, Sept. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center, 102 Pine Knoll Drive, Greenville, S.C., 29609.

For more information, contact Stanley at 803/323-2653 or e-mail him at stanleyt@winthrop.edu.