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Today is Friday, March 7th, 2025

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Entertainment

Thursday, March 6th, 2025

Figuratively speaking

By Edith Decker of the Daily Courier

March is women's history month and the Hivve Hubb Gallery is celebrating with "Femme Fatale" the theme for its first Friday art reception and for the month.

Ted Helard, the featured artist, specializes in figurative drawing of the female form — as well as portraits, illustration, character design and cartooning.

"My spectrum of stuff I do is massive," says the quiet artist during a break between classes.

He's taught art at Rogue Community College — classes at both Table Rock and Redwood campuses — for 13 years.

Originally from Humboldt County, Helard went to school for cartooning and comics at the Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia, but fell for fine art and began to do other work.

Whether creating a portrait in pastel, a nude drawing or a new comic character, he enjoys telling a story, he says.

Outside of an illustration show he was part of at the late lamented FireHouse Gallery in downtown Grants Pass, Helard hasn't had a show of his work in a gallery setting. He met Hivve Hubb co-founder and manager Colene Milligan and found himself the featured artist with a wall to fill with his work in March.

"I'm excited to be a part of it," he says of the Hivve show. "I'm so busy being an illustrator and a teacher. My own art is just something I do for my own joy."

Last week, he was still figuring out what to put on that wall from his large collection.

He thinks he wants to show a work in process, start to finish.

"When you look at this," he says of a completed drawing of a female nude, "You don't really get a feeling for how it's made."

Seeing the process shows "it's more doable," he says. "A big part of teaching is just getting people to feel that they can do it."

Day-to-day, he mostly does quick demonstration drawings in class for his students, such as drawings to show values or gestures.

"They show drawing is somewhat more approachable," he says.

He likes to quietly puncture the idea of sheer talent in art, in favor of lots of practice and being committed to learning.

"It's fun when people come into class because they like to draw, but don't think they really can," he says. "By the end of the class they're shocked by what they produced."

The Hivve Hubb Gallery is upstairs at the Shops at 6th and G at 164 S.E. G St. in downtown Grants Pass.

The first Friday reception runs 5-8 p.m. Around a dozen other artists will have their work out as well.

Reach reporter Edith Decker at 541-474-3724 or edecker@thedailycourier.com.



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier In the art room at Rogue Community College's Table Rock campus in White City, Ted Helard, art instructor at Rogue Community College, shifts through piles of artwork, much of it done to illustrate points in his classes. Helard's work will be featured at the Hivve Hubb Gallery for March as the theme turns to women. The opening reception for Helard, which features many other artists, is Friday, 5-8 p.m.

Get into the groove. Spring term starts March 31. RCC Rogue Community College 855-GOROGUE

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