Students put spin on the classics

By Katie Wudel
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Prepare to dress up in black, wear a beret and eat free cheese. It's time for the senior thesis exhibit.

Featuring Arts & Sciences seniors Mike Sgier and Faith Enright, this year's Bachelor of Fine Arts thesis exhibit premieres at 6 p.m. tonight, and will run until Dec. 14.

After 54 credit hours, two portfolio reviews and a year of hard work on pieces for an exhibit, Sgier and Enright finally have the chance to rest.

"I have paint on every item of clothing I own," Enright said, pointing to smudges of black paint on her pants.

Enright, who has taken classes in glass casting, print making, life drawing and virtually everything else, specializes in painting.

"I'm not necessarily sure I'll stick with painting. I can work in all the different veins of art. But the human figure - there is nothing else for me," she said.

Her show follows her passions.

"My theme is the human figure as a container for our energy, our essence, our spirit," she said.

Many of her paintings reveal skeletal structure. All are focused on the female form.

"The woman is the perfect representation of existence. She is the bearer of life, and she passes away," she said.

"What remains after our spirit leaves us? Our bones. They hang around; they're hard to destroy. Even if you burn them, they're still intact - they hold us up. We'd be goofy without them," Enright said.

Enright's goal is to get people to look at the nude figure in a non-sexual way. She said her art is not meant to be offensive.

She even kept a skeleton in her studio to make working on the exhibit less lonely.

"He's been my one good friend," she said.

While she has an interest in graduate school and teaching, she hopes to one day run an art camp.

For now, however, she must concentrate on making her show perfect.

"You get caught up in the drama of the BFA. You forget about the other things," she said. "I could paint 15 more panels...but right now I want to stay sane and get things done."

Sgier feels the same way.

"It's about keeping yourself disciplined and motivated," he said.

He specializes in print making. Many of his prints have involved mythology and storytelling, a love that may have stemmed from his English co-major. Sgier's show, "Orpheus' Blues," is based on the myth of Orpheus. Traditionally, Orpheus was a troubled folk hero, and a musician.

"He's a young Bob Dylan type of character," Sgier said.

He created a story about his new Orpheus, and centered his exhibit around it.

Sgier does not intend to go to graduate school or teach. He does, however, intend to work with people.

The relationship between collaborative artists is different than the one between teachers and students, he said.

Already Sgier has delved into this collaborative spirit - he worked with Arts & Sciences junior Mike Mayer to create a book illustrating the story of "Orpheus' Blues," which will be available for purchase at the show.

"The key to art right now is to find a way to get it into the hands of the people," he said. "My average print costs $5 dollars. My book costs three. Which one is a college student going to buy?"

Sgier plans on going into illustrations, such as that found in comic books or fairy tales.

"You can easily find the Medusa and the Minotaur in Jack and Jill and the Wizard of Oz," he said.

Besides prints, Sgier's show will feature computer illustration. He would like to see a collaboration of the fine art and graphic art departments.

"There is a literal and psychological boundary between this department and the journalism department," he said.

"Students on Creighton's campus tend to get stuck in study mode," he said. "Come have fun. You have enough to worry about."