Dying on the Vine by Sheridan Kate Murray ’19

Completing my Whetsell Fellowship was honestly one of the best experiences of my life! I was chosen for the summer fellowship to complete an original body of work under the guidance of a mentor, culminating in an exhibition in the new Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts. My exhibition, entitled Dying on the Vine, focused on the interconnectedness of art and the environment through the utilization of abstract, nonrepresentational forms. Though they display nuances in their form and composition, each work utilizes acrylic paint, ink, and graphite on canvas paper to emulate an iconic image of muscadine grapes that I witnessed during an Environmental Studies lab during my Freshman year. While this body of work on one level represents natural themes, it also relays the manner in which art and the environment have both consistently impacted my life and my definition of self. Through this exploration of creative subject matter, I also was effectively able to explore myself, and what aspects of myself I wanted to keep or let “die on the vine.” I will forever be grateful for this amazing opportunity that enabled me to create a body of work that resonates with me, and hopefully with viewers. Art and earth are forever intertwined in my life, and it’s been an honor for me to share my creative vision with others.

The Whetsell Fellowship, established in 2006 by Dr. William O. Whetsell in memory of his brother, Dan Whetsell, is designed to support and promote the visual arts at Wofford College. It is a summer fellowship that allows a Wofford student the opportunity to pursue study in some aspect of the visual arts under the guidance of a mentor to be selected by the college.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

2017 Whetsell Fellowship Exhibition “Dying on the Vine”: Student-artist Sheridan Kate Murray’s exhibit is open in the Richardson Family Art Gallery, Tuesday-Saturday, 1:00-5:00pm.

Applications open for summer research internship: This paid summer internship runs May 29-August 3, 2018 in the Lake Champlain Basin in Vermont. Research will be conducted in lake & stream ecology, climatology, water chemistry & microbiology, soil nutrients, environmental policy & management, and land use management. Visit https://epscor.w3.uvm.edu/2/node/111 for more information and to complete an online application. Deadline to apply: January 31, 2018.

Applications for Middlebury Summer Environmental Studies Program in China: Program dates - June 15-July 28, 2018. Students will work alongside faculty and practitioners in the Yunnan province to tackle significant environmental problems that stretch beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. Visit http://www.middlebury.edu/environment for application and additional information about the program. Financial aid available.

Happy Holidays!

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:
University of California – Berkeley – Energy and Resources

UC – Berkeley established the Energy and Resources Group (ERG) in 1973. They offer a Master of Science, Master of Arts, and PhD programs in Energy and Resources. From their website: “The purpose of the ERG Master’s program is to educate the next generation of interdisciplinary leaders. Specifically, students are taught the range of methods and subjects they should be able to understand, advance, and critique to address critical issues stemming from the interaction of humans and the environment.”

Research facilities at ERG offers students the opportunity to study technology, development, and society; governance challenges; global change science; ecological economics; and consumption, resource use and equity. The overall curriculum is designed to serve students who intend to pursue a master’s degree only and students who intend to continue on to a PhD.

For more information, visit the program website: http://erg.berkeley.edu/