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Avondale, EMCC partner to bring art to Old Town

Nov. 23, 2010 12:01 PM
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Ingrid Melle of the Avondale public information office submitted this article.

Estrella Mountain Community [College students](#) installed the "Non-Places" art exhibit in the storefront windows of a retail plaza in Old Town Avondale.

This is the first art exhibit in the Old Town Avondale's windowARTspace program that puts artwork in the windows of Western Avenue businesses. The exhibit will be up for two months.

Seventeen EMCC [students](#) from EMCC's digital photography class on Nov. 16 installed art in the storefront windows of Sterling Plaza West, across the street from the Sam Garcia Western Avenue Library, 506 E. Western Ave.

The Old Town Avondale windowARTspace program is another way to showcase art in Old Town Avondale, expanding beyond the monthly Old Town Avondale Art Walk on the third Fridays of the month during the fall/winter season.

"Exhibiting works of art by local artists in business windows brings excitement and artistic flair to Western Avenue, and gives local artists a chance to get their work out into the community," said Ruth Clark, Avondale's revitalization project manager.

Sterling Plaza West is one of the largest commercial spaces along Western Avenue.

"The building acts a temporary storefront art gallery through the generosity of its owner who is letting the artists put up their exhibit while the building is for lease," Clark added.

The "Non-Places Exhibit" arose from an assignment for the college's digital photography class.

"Students were asked to explore different types of contemporary spaces and comment on how each affects identity," said class professor Jim Fike, an art faculty member at EMCC.

"The resulting photo images were manipulated through Photoshop, in some cases combining various photos to make one panoramic image. Viewers of the exhibit should ask themselves, 'How does my sense of identity change as I look at each picture?' " he added.

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