

West Valley View

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EMCC to show off artistic recyclables

Rachel Trott
staff writer

Estrella **Mountain Community College** wants artists in the West Valley to ask themselves, "paper or plastic?"

Organized by the **college's** art and photo faculty to help celebrate the fine arts, the "Paper or Plastic" photo project will display submitted photographs exploring the theme of recycling from 10 a.m. to noon May 4 in the **Community** Room in **Estrella** Hall, 3000 N. Dysart Road in Avondale.

"Every year, the **college** tries to do a variety of celebrations for the different arts," photography instructor Richard Gross said. "We invite the **community** to participate because we have a lot of retired people who like photography, as well as part-time shooters, just people who enjoy the hobby. Anyone who wants to can bring in their submissions and set up their own little art show."

Each submission will be displayed on a makeshift table-top easel constructed out of liter-sized water bottles and tape to help celebrate the theme of recycling.

"What I've seen is that artists are using recycled materials, they're trying to gather together pieces of paper to make collages or other hunks of items to make sculptures," Gross said. "And there's no shortage of need for people to become aware of what they're throwing in their recycle bin."

Gross said he hopes the challenge of having to find beauty out of trash or create something new out of discarded items will appeal to artists interested in trying out something new.

"This is a creativity exercise. This is looking at one thing and asking what else it could be, because a lot of the time, we look at recycled material and assume it's junk," he said. "So there's a certain number of people out there in the **community** who might enjoy the puzzle, to show off their work after a good challenge and have fun."

EMCC Instructor Kip Suddath is meeting the challenge head on and submitting his multimedia artwork to the show.

"I am going to be submitting digital images reflecting how sometimes there are interesting juxtapositions within the design of newspapers," he said. "It is important for me as an artist and art instructor to constantly challenge my students and my own visualization process. This enhances the creative process and allows my students to see this process as it develops."

Community show

Gross stressed that the art show's purpose is to be welcoming to the entire **community**. For that reason, the show is not judged and is open to artists of every age and skill level.

"I don't care about level. If somebody has an imaginative fifth-grade class, and they want to do something, that's great. These artists can be young kids, too. Sometimes young kids have the best ideas," he said.



In addition to the art show, submissions will also be displayed on an online Flickr account throughout the end of April so that artists can enjoy each other's work up until the big day.

For information, or to submit work for the art show, email richard.gross@estrellamountain.edu.

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