

Herron artists get New York exposure

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The fashion world has Paris. Movie-makers flock to Los Angeles. Artists know New York is their place to be.

Elizabeth Garvey knows that as well as anyone in the art world. She has lived and worked in New York for more than 20 years as a fine art dealer and adviser. Her business, Garvey Simon Art Access, resides in one of the biggest gallery hubs in the city.

Garvey also has strong ties to Indiana — family, professional and school-related types of ties.

It's not too surprising, then, that she's showing an exhibit comprised of work from nine Herron School of Art and Design students and faculty in her gallery this month. What is surprising, however, is that Indiana artists barely out of — and in some cases still in — the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis school will have their work seen in New York.

It's an amazing opportunity for the students, said Valerie Eikmeier, the dean of Herron.

It's challenging for beginning artists to get their work seen, but getting that work viewed in the world's art mecca? That's even more difficult, Eikmeier said.

Difficult, but incredibly helpful.

As an art dealer, Garvey looks for evidence on a resume that an artist has been actively showing his or her work. If that work has been shown in an impressive place, all the better, she said.

Showing work in



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GARVEY SIMON ART ACCESS

Artwork created by Herron School of Art and Design students and faculty are on display at a gallery in New York owned by Indiana University graduate Elizabeth Garvey. She chose nine artists from a pool of 20 from the school to show at the Garvey Simon Art Access studio.

different places also can lead to other opportunities, Eikmeier said.

"Our hope would be that somebody's work resonates well with some of Liz's clients," she said.

Jake Sneath, a graduate student at Herron, doesn't have grand hopes of discovery for his artwork that is being featured in the exhibition, but four months ago he didn't know he would be showing his work in New York at all.

Danielle Riede, one of Sneath's professors, told Sneath to send her some of his work, which Riede then gave to Garvey. One of Sneath's silver chemigrams, an abstract piece created from acrylic varnish and photo-

graphic paper, made it into the main exhibition.

"It's been a great surprise," he said. "It's been a huge honor to be included in the show."

The show is a boon to someone based in the Midwest, he said. Indy's art scene might be growing, but the community isn't New York by any means.

Garvey gets that as someone with feet in Indiana and New York.

She received her bachelor's in art history from Indiana University and her family is from the area, but she didn't get involved in Indy's art scene until she made a trip back to the state during the financial crisis of the late 2000s.

Garvey saw the empty storefronts in the city's art and design district and decided to start her own pop-up gallery in Carmel. From 2010 to 2011, Garvey ran her Indiana gallery, meeting Indiana artists and making connections.

One artist she met was David Morrison, a print-making professor at Herron. He created "amazing" work, she said, but didn't network with New York art players.

Garvey represents Morrison now, and his work has done well in her care, she said.

"I've always liked championing the underdog and finding the interesting artists who

are out there doing exquisite work but might not have the exposure merely because they aren't here in New York," she said.

That's exactly what Garvey has been doing with Herron students and faculty since she started planning the exhibition with Eikmeier a year ago. Her help, however, isn't a charitable gesture, she said.

"I would not select work if I did not think it was good enough quality to be in the show," she said.

About 20 students and faculty submitted pictures of their work to Garvey. She selected nine artists.

The submissions she

chose for display — ceramic plates and wood and acrylic wall hangings — aren't connected by a theme, but they all struck her as unique and of good quality.

The pieces are on display in her gallery's main exhibition room until Saturday. A July 14 opening show was attended by New York artists from the Midwest as well as her usual clients and patrons.

The exhibition, albeit in an important New York art neighborhood 700 miles from Indianapolis, has a simple name: "Herron."

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