

Emerging artist: Elaine Green

By Julianne Crane

Staff writer

Age: 46

Born: St. Maries, Idaho; currently living in Moscow, Idaho.

Education: Certificate of Fine Arts, Spokane Falls Community College, 1999; Bachelor of Fine Arts, Eastern Washington University, 2001; Master of Fine Arts, University of Idaho, 2005.

Day job: Fulltime artist.

Influences: "I was strongly attracted to Francisco Goya's prints and drawings, and his willingness to show ugliness," says Green. Other artists include Kathe Kollowitz for her use of the human form to express emotion, intimacy and relationships; and the figurative painter Jenny Saville.

Another influence is the philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty for "his writings on 'bodily sentience' that describe how we are attuned to our surroundings without being aware of it; and how our unconscious thoughts and feelings are revealed through body gesture and position, in a kind of 'body empathy.'"

What kind of art do you make? Monochromatic nude figures ranging from life-size charcoal drawings to smaller figures in monotype or pointed brush and ink.

"Like the painter Leon Golub said, art can't be too explicit or tell complex stories," says Green. "If you try to tell too much, it becomes cliché or kitsch. I want my art to show us as we are—ambiguous, dynamic, wrestling with our roles, our power, repressing or supporting. My work don't show glamorized or idealized bodies—it shows how the body is vulnerable, exposed and how it ages."

"My latest series is called 'Unhomelike,' expressing a feeling of 'not at home,' simultaneously strange, yet familiar. This depicts aspects of the human condition: frailty, age,



Photo by Thomas Green

degradation, struggle, hope."

Talk a little about your process: "The charcoal drawings almost have the appearance of black and white photos," says Green. "I work in both an additive and subtractive manner, using my hands to rub charcoal into the paper and erasers to remove it. It's more like a sculptural process than drawing."

"I work from gestural figure studies and gradually flesh them out, using myself, my husband and friends for occasional muscle references," she says. "I respond to the drawing as it evolves. My art making is more intuitive—somewhat disconnected on the surface, but connected subconsciously."

What is the intent of your art? "I want to make art that has a strong presence and a sense of honesty and truth."

Where we can see your art? Work is currently on view at the University of Idaho Prichard Art Gallery as part of the "Idaho Triennial 2004" through Oct. 1; and the Third Street Gallery through Oct. 7, both galleries are in Moscow. In "September Seven," a group show at the Stewart Gallery in Boise, (www.stewartgallery.com) through Oct. 4. Upcoming show, "Heroic Scale," Feb. 13 to Mar. 10, 2006, Huneke Gallery in the Spokane Art School. Online at the Art Spirit Gallery in Coeur d'Alene (www.theartspiritgallery.com).

Contact:
gree4004@uidaho.edu.

■ Staff writer Julianne Crane can be reached at (509) 459-5435 or julianne@spokane7.com.