



February 23, 2017
FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

**BCC ART GALLERY OPENS FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING: WORKS BY
DEBORAH BALDIZAR, PAMELA HOSS, JUDY VOLKMANN, AND V.F. WOLF
ON MARCH 9**

Exhibition
March 9-April 7, 2017

Opening Reception
Thursday, March 9, 6 - 8 p.m.
SNOWDATE: Friday, March 10, 6 - 8 p.m.

Hours
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday: 1 - 4 p.m.

Admission
Free and open to the public

Website
Bristolcc.edu/gallery

Throughout time, depictions of the human body reflect a multitude of complex cultural and societal constructs. The body has been idealized as an image of our aspirations of perfection, as in the depiction of Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. It has been fetishized in ancient stone sculptures as images of fertility or idolized in iconic and symbolic depictions of religious devotion. It is used to convey descriptions and distinctions between power and submission.

One of the enduring tenets for artists has been that the depiction or rendering of the body is the most direct, and familiar, way to reveal and talk about the human condition. What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to be self-aware? How do we know ourselves? How do we present ourselves to the world? How do we discern our sense of

self-awareness? Does our perception of who we are change over time?

Deborah Baldizar uses the figure as a way to talk about internal vs external states of being. She has written about the depiction of the figure in her ceramic works as something that, “grows out of a desire to visually translate the psychological concept of the shadow, or, parts of one’s identity concealed from others, either consciously or unconsciously.”

Pamela Hoss uses herself as subject while incorporating images from family photographs. Her works look at autobiography and self, aging and remembrance. She states, “The creative process has helped me express the past and present through a collage of memories and dreams, with a conscious awareness of age, gender and loss.”

Judy Volkmann, while evoking similar themes of private vs public notions of identity and self, is more celebratory in her approach to the figure. She writes, “The figures and portraits represented are often in states of being reflective, engaged, celebratory, or confrontational.”

V.F. Wolf makes work that is, “Repulsive and attractive. I paint ugly and disturbing mask-like figures. They are a metaphor to analyze the shadow that lies in every society’s sub-conscious, that part of the psyche that craves violence and destruction.” He confronts the dark side, brutality, violence and destruction as part of the continuum of the human condition.

The artists navigate beyond the veneer of representations of our outward facing selves and inward to confront the deeper, perhaps more vexing aspects of ourselves often hidden from view – our thoughts and desires, fears and anxieties, and memory. The figure provides, at times, a provocative and yet reaffirming point of reference. Through it we search for connections, we seek the archetype, look for the bonds that both unite and divide us, and confront the darker aspects of our condition.

For more information, please contact Kathleen Hancock at 508.678.2811 ext. 2439, or email kathleen.hancock@bristolcc.edu.

***About Bristol Community College** Bristol Community College is a leading resource for education and workforce development in Southeastern Massachusetts. BCC has locations in Fall River, Attleboro, New Bedford, and Taunton, along with flexible online offerings that lead to an associate degree, a career-ready certificate, or the ability to seamlessly transfer to baccalaureate colleges throughout the state and country. The College’s Center for Workforce and Community Education provides customized training for businesses and the community including healthcare, workforce and sustainable initiatives, corporate services, and Kids College. The BCC Foundation, a non-profit organization utilizing community donations and partnerships, supports the College’s mission to meet the lifelong educational needs of the community. For more information, visit <http://www.bristolcc.edu/aboutbcc/>*