DePaul’s Student Art Collection Currently on Display
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Each spring, a new piece of student art is added to the DePaul University Museum’s collection, courtesy of the Donald and Christine Purchase Prize. Three of the most recent works are currently on display as part of the exhibition, “Collection Under Construction: Building a Teaching Museum.” at the DePaul University Art Museum through November 21, 2007.

In 2005, Erik Hodek’s mixed media piece, “Impire,” was added to the collection. The unstretched canvas piece uses paint, word, and printmaking to create an image that seems to symbolize the drop of the Atomic Bomb over Japan. A New York Times’ front page is printed in reverse and the partial headline “U.S. Attacks…” can be made out. Black splattered paint, a U.S. map, small graphic planes, and Japanese writing add to the theme.

“Alt-64 A/D Apache Helicopters 2006” by Matt Winters in 2006 followed with another military inspired piece done in mixed media. This piece depicts a large, black helicopter stencil over a chaotic background. The background is filled with a stenciled calico print, green and blue paint, black spray paint, and a computer chip graphic.

The most recent acquisition, “To Our Beloved Daughter” (2007), by Emily Bentrup is also a mixed media piece depicting battle, although hers is not military-related. Her artist’s book depicts her personal struggle dealing with her mother, who is “bipolar, depressed, obsessive compulsive, ritually tardy, wildly crazy, [and] loving,” according to the book’s cover.

The accordion-style binding pieces together eight Hallmark cards in their envelopes and additional information by the author. The cards are from her mother on various occasions, and Bentrup includes anecdotal transparencies inside each card.

“Everything that my mother could not say to me, she searched for in the aisles of a Hallmark store,” Bentrup writes.

The stories are touching and funny, about hospital Jell-o, her mom’s obsession with Bounty paper towels, and about being left waiting on the playground for over an hour and a half, waiting for her ride home.

The book is a poignant and personal look at a young woman’s struggle to love and accept her mother.

“As the group accumulates it will reflect not only the high quality of student work produced here, but also evolving interests and concerns of students in their time and place,” says accompanying museum materials.
http://museums.depaul.edu