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UNH Woodworking Students Display Work at Portsmouth Gallery
Woodworking Students Display Work at Portsmouth Gallery

By Erika Mantz
UNH News Bureau

February 27, 2001

DURHAM, N.H. -- For the first time, students studying furniture design at the University of New Hampshire will show their work in a professional gallery. The exhibit runs March 2-31 at the N.W. Barrett Gallery in Portsmouth and features more than 25 works by 16 students.

The students, many of whom are pursuing careers in art and furniture design, will be available to discuss their work at an opening reception Sunday, March 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. All works will be for sale.

The furniture design curriculum is built on the historical tradition of woodworking, but also encourages innovation in concept, technique and design.

"Students have the freedom to explore their own way of thinking," says John Greiner, one of the student exhibitors. "As a result, works in the gallery will range from purely conceptual to functional with many variations in between."

Jo Stone, professor of furniture design in UNH's Art and Art History program, says the work is all one-of-a-kind and includes everything from spoons, small boxes and walking sticks, to cabinets, tables and chairs.

"After two years at the university, I continue to be impressed with the caliber of work the students do, and this exhibit not only gives them a chance to show it in a professional setting, but to see how much work goes into doing a show," says Stone.

"The university has offered furniture design classes for many years, but the work has gone largely unrecognized," she adds. "Last semester we were invited to participate in the Providence Fine
Furnishings Show in Rhode Island, and the students' work received a lot of positive attention. I approached the gallery, and they were very eager to work with the students."

The N.W. Barrett Gallery is located on the second floor at 53 Market St. in Portsmouth. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Jo Stone at (603) 862-1003 or via e-mail at jo.stone@unh.edu, or the N.W. Barrett Gallery at (603) 431-4262.

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