

Faculty on display

prOcess lets Mal-U instructors shine

By SANDRA STEILO
DAILY NEWS

It's time for the instructors at Malaspina University-College to show their talents with prOcess: the faculty exhibition, opening tonight.

Faculty from the visual and applied arts department taking part in this exhibit held every two years, are Gregory Ball, Fran Benton, Iris Churcher, Richard A. Conroy, Jan Gates, Jason Gress, Scott Leaf, Justin McGrall and Pamela Speight. The show runs until Oct. 7 in the upper and lower galleries at the campus location.

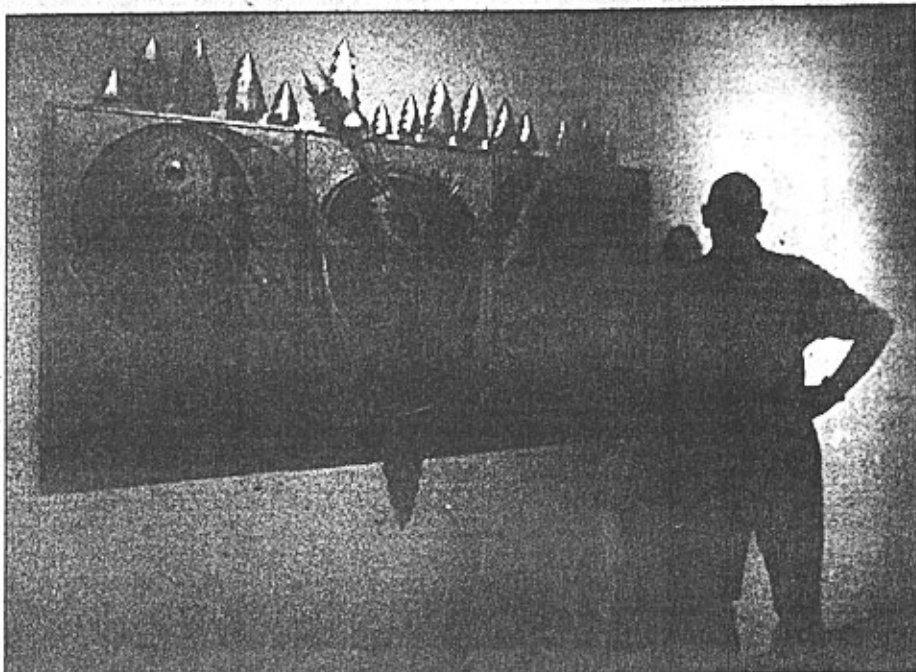
Conroy, an instructor in the applied graphics program at the college has taken part in the show since he joined the faculty 20 years ago. His works, brightly coloured mixed media pieces, show his love of mythology from all parts of the world. The works were done over the past couple years and are based on self exploration, he said.

"It's about using the old with some of the new," Conroy said. "And trying to figure out how to identify and use mythology in a contemporary way."

One of the pieces, called *Creativity*, came from an idea from when Conroy was in Berlin. It features a mixture of materials, including cotton balls, acrylic, gold leaf, glaze and more with a variety of textures.

"I use everything," Conroy said of the materials in his work. "I start off with an idea of what I'm going to make and then I think 'what can I use' and 'how can I do it?' And one thing leads to another and this is what I end up with."

Another piece called, *El Tuna*, features ele-



Rick Conroy poses with one of his pieces, 'Beneath the Shroud' at the Nanaimo Art Gallery. prOcess opens tonight and runs until Oct. 7. — SANDRA STEILO/DAILY NEWS

ments of Polynesian creation and evolution mythology and another amazing array of colours but it also looks like the cakes his mother used to make, Conroy said. He also based some of the colours and design on scuba diving he used to do off the coast of Thailand and Indonesia.

"It's serious art with a flippant attitude," he said.

Conroy said the show is a nice contrast to his work at the college and shows students and faculty another side to his creativity.

"I can do graphic design and illustration until it comes out of my ears," he said. "The

beautiful thing about having this exhibition here is that my responsibility to my students is to stay current.

"The show is called prOcess and that's because the students are always curious on who the hell they just signed up to study with, so the faculty decided it would put art-works into play, it's our process of exploring ourselves and our subject matter."

An opening reception will take place tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with food provided by Glow World Cuisine. For more information call, 740-6350.

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