

## Resident artists, literally

*Two art professors get cozy with their surroundings in CCC's Alexander Gallery*

BY ELLEN SPITALERI

*The Clackamas Review, Mar 4, 2010*

---



David Andersen and fellow artist Bill Carman lounge around in the Alexander Gallery, which became their temporary home and studio, just prior to the opening of the Bill and Dave Show. The resulting exhibit of their work is on display until March 15.

ELLEN SPITALERI / CLACKAMAS REVIEW

It all started as an idea they had on a fishing trip last fall and culminated in the **Bill and Dave Show, an art exhibit now on view at the Alexander Gallery on campus at Clackamas Community College.**

David Anderson, the head of the art department at the college, and his friend Bill Carmen, an art teacher at Boise State University, were kicking around ideas as to how to fill some upcoming empty space in the gallery.

"During our last show of Gene Flores' art, we had a printing press inside the gallery, and people were in and out working [on the press]. Then I said, 'What is the next step? What else can we do? Well, let's live in the gallery for a week and be a part of the show. It will be funny and interesting,'" Anderson said.

So on Feb. 16, Andersen and Carmen moved into the gallery space, bringing in beds, a rug, lamps, art supplies and even a fish tank, for "a homey accoutrement," Anderson added.

Once they were settled in, they began to work on painting, even though both men are not really used to producing art while dealing with interruptions and visitors.

"This is not the way I normally work. When people come in and start talking to me, I'm going to keep painting. I'll see what happens when I am distracted from the process," Carmen said.

He added that he was starting a group of pieces, by beginning with texture and adding brush strokes.

"Part of the fun of this is it frees me up – I'm making this up as I go."

The Alexander Gallery has been primarily used as an exhibit space, Andersen noted, but his goal was to experiment and draw in more people, to make it more of a learning gallery.

The show is also partly a student project.

"My gallery class is an amazing class – every student is highly intelligent and creative," Andersen said.

The pair designed a giant collage, and each of the CCC students will take a piece and draw it – the end result will fill an entire wall. All of the work will be displayed in the gallery until March 15.

### **Performance art**

The very first day, Andersen and Carmen were surprised by people's reactions.

"They stop at the door, and feel like they are entering our space; it appears to be an intimate space – it's funny," Andersen said, donning a bright red smoking jacket and fez, to add to the colorful surroundings.

But once visitors came in, they watched art being made right before their very eyes.

"I'm anxious to get going – I do plenty of demos, so that is not a problem and I am pretty confident in my art. This is a form of performance and I do that every day in my classes," Carmen said.

Andersen added, "[People] have never seen an exhibit quite like this. Bill is an amazing artist, so whatever happens, happens. This also has that little bit of 'Wow, what if we can't paint this week? What if we are interrupted too much?'"

### **Fast Facts**

- The Bill and Dave Show, featuring the work of Bill Carmen and David Andersen in the Alexander Gallery, inside the Niemeyer Center
- Now through March 15; Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Ave., Oregon City 97045
- The Alexander Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during special events in the Niemeyer Center. For more information, please contact David Andersen at 503-657-6958, ext. 2743.
- Andersen teaches painting and drawing at CCC and Carman is a painter and award-winning illustrator who teaches at Boise State University.

Copyright 2010 Pamplin Media Group, 6605 S.E. Lake Road, Portland, OR 97222 •  
503-226-6397