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Faculty members present latest creations at Houghton art show

HOUGHTON—The Ortlip Gallery at Houghton College will present the work of Art Department Faculty members from January 20th to March 5th. Professors Jillian Sokso, John Rhett, Gary Baxter, Ted Murphy and David Huth are showing mixed media ranging from watercolor to film.

The collection being shown is drawn from the most recent work of each artist and the Faculty Art Show will be the debut showing for each piece. "It's the first time for me to see it inside, under the lights," said Professor Gary Baxter of his wood fired pottery.

The art show is one way students can learn through a public exhibition of the work of the professors. It is also a chance for professors to bring their work outside of the classroom. "This is an opportunity to step outside my pieces and see if I should hang them up or keep working," said Professor John Rhett.

Many of the pieces being shown are reflective of Houghton itself and the experiences that art professors have had here. "The smaller series is based on decorative images and imagery from some photographs and drawings that I did on our May-term to Turkey, so they have a lot of Islamic imagery in them," said Associate Professor Jillian Sokso of her prints.

Whether the show serves as a means of inspiration for students, a unique cultural opportunity for the Houghton College Community, or a learning experience for faculty, each artist is eager to tell their story through the pieces they are showcasing.

"I hope my paintings reveal something different than a photograph would," said Rhett. "The watercolor medium is different than other forms of painting in that you can explore some other kinds of things than just what you see."