

“From Best in show” © Copyright 2001 The Daily Northwestern
The 2001 Undergraduate Art Exhibition honors students from unlikely backgrounds for their artistic expressions in variety of forms

By Lauren Wiener
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Anna Wakitsch

Although she made paper dolls as a little girl, Anna Wakitsch never studied art until she arrived at NU three years ago and decided to try something new.

Wakitsch, a Weinberg senior, came to NU expecting to major in either cognitive science or math but declared an art major after taking a few classes freshman year.

"I just felt like art was something I could do," she said. "I thought it would be the best choice for me. I've had a lot of fun doing it so far."

Winning Best in Show was a complete surprise to Wakitsch. She came to the reception and saw her name on the wall along with all the other winners.

"I've never won before this year, but I'm glad I won this year because my work was more independent and based on my own ideas, not specific assignments," Wakitsch said.

Her two winning pieces come from her senior honors project, in which she investigates how people form identities. The project involves a series of panel pieces in oil that depict close-ups of facial features.

"They are more abstract, so that you can't tell exactly what they are," she said. "It's interesting to me to see how that space looks up close."

The pieces are based on a variety of sources, including photographic material, Renaissance paintings and sculptures. Wakitsch submitted the proposal for the project Fall Quarter and has been working since Winter Quarter on the nine to 12 paintings that will ultimately compose the piece.

At NU Wakitsch has been involved in a variety of activities beyond the scope of art. She is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity that works with charities, nursing homes and literacy programs. She also serves on the student advisory board for the art department.

After Wakitsch graduates she wants to pursue her art professionally. She hopes to exhibit her work in shows and galleries, initially in the Chicago area. Wakitsch also appreciates fashion and might consider working as a costume designer or a wardrobe stylist.

With only a few weeks left at NU, Wakitsch looks upon her college experience fondly.

"(My years at NU) led me in a different direction than I expected in terms of art, but I am looking forward to continuing with it."

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