

ARTS

Nonprofit gallery papers walls with artwork

Who: About 20 artists
What: "Wallpaper: Works on Paper"
When: Reception 6-8 p.m. on Friday; show hangs through December
Where: Teton Art Lab
How much: Free

By Katy Niner

To prepare for the upcoming show at Teton Art Lab, Benjamin Carlson opened his notebook, picked pages representative of his artistic diversity and ripped them out.

Like Carlson, some 20 other emerging artists will select sketchbook art for the salon-style show "Wallpaper: Works on Paper," a floor-to-ceiling canvassing of Teton Art Lab with affordable works on paper. The show opens with a reception Friday night and hangs through New Year's Eve.

Abbie Miller, Art Lab curator, said the show – the first of its kind – will dissolve the distinction between an artist's studio and the gallery, blending the two for an unusual statement.

"The gallery takes the backseat," she said. "It's sort of a gorilla production show."

Gallery visitors can meet many local artists Friday night, and most of the visiting artists – from urban art hubs like Chicago, New York and Los Angeles – have welcoming Web sites.

Miller issued an open invitation to artists she knew through art school, group shows and other networks to send whatever they were working on. Miller sketched how the artists chose the works they did: "I'm going to go to my studio, take out what's meaningful to me – I'm not going to over-intellectualize it – and pin it on the wall," Miller said of the artists' preparations. "It's less of a sense of production."

New York-based Johannes DeYoung works primarily in large-scale installations. For him, "drawings are a way to create characters or situate new environments," Miller said. "They are not his final production." DeYoung sent studies of men's craggy faces, etched in ink wrinkles.



Teton Art Lab will canvas its walls for a floor-to-ceiling, salon-style show of works on paper by some 20 national and local artists beginning Friday.

The show is a continuation of their studio process, Miller said.

"It puts work outside of their studio that wasn't going to see a white wall or cube," revealing the artists' ideas and evolution, she said. The accessibility extends to affordable prices – in keeping with the nonprofit Art Lab's mis-

sion to showcase affordable, contemporary art in Jackson.

Michael Glowacki, a photographer and printmaker from Chicago, sent drawings that reveal his interest in craft and design, Miller said. One oblong work of a sharpened pencil balances a ghoulish mug while a pair of

Art moves

At Teton Art Lab, Benjamin Carlson has renovated a closet into a compact black column of a gallery. His nonpaper pieces – wood carvings and paintings – will live there during "Wallpaper."

hands tinker in the foreground.

The show's chockablock installation is as free-form as the artists' selection process.

"Instead of us dictating an idea or statement by the way that we show the work, the salon-style really gives the viewers the chance to choose what they like. They can come in and find what works appeal to them," Miller said.

All are unframed. Without the barrier of frame or matting, people can study the surface, the way each artist applies the medium to the paper. It's more personable, Miller said.

While individual artists' works will likely be clustered together, the overall impact will be one of diversity and dialogue. With so much visual information, the challenge is: "you don't want a single piece to be lost, but you also want it to be part of the larger collage," Miller said.

"We don't want it to be so chaotic that each piece explodes into the next," she said.

The open floor space will allow viewers to take in the show as a whole and in pieces, Miller said. As such, the Art Lab itself becomes a piece of artwork, as does each room within the gallery, each wall, each grouping, each piece of paper.

Carlson expects people will take their time as they shuffle around the perimeter.

"I'm interested in seeing how the mass of drawings correlates to the mass of people," Miller said.

She hopes people walk away with their purchased paper works Friday, leaving holes in the visual collage, causing other eyes to wonder: "I wonder what the piece was?"