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Art Review

Eggs make a smashing show

by Paulo DePaula

A Cape Girardeau resident is currently displaying a series of serigraphs in the Art Gallery, Baldwin Hall 218.

Win Bruhl, assistant professor and chairman of the Art Department of Southeast Missouri State University, has 21 works in the exhibit, on display until Sept. 27.

Serigraphy, more popularly known as silk screen print, is a relatively modern process which emerged in America during the 1930 s.

Bruhl starts each of his pieces on a tan-beige colored grid, on which each painstakingly worked-out egg form emerges, alive with action as

blue, red, green and purple float off the neutral-colored grid, and splash and splatter, as paint would when falling on a floor.

On each one of the fourteen works titled "Floor Pieces," the ever-present egg motif floats in space, three dimensionally. The repetition of the egg motif and the fragility of the shell makes one wonder why the artist did not have an occasional broken egg, its yolk and white mingling into the splattering of those highly saturated colors or splashing on to the tan tiles of his floors.

The works show perfect balance and composition. There is no overlapping of lines or figures, but

shapes interlock into each other through the vertical, or sometimes diagonal, lines of the grid. The egg is repeated—sometimes one alone in a piece, sometimes in groups of as many as five.

At the end of the wall, six works take on a different tonality. These are done in graphite. Still emerging from a grid, they are no longer colorfully arrayed eggs, but careful rectangles. An occasional collage element can be seen, such as a torn sheet of writing paper as if taped on to the work—a self portrait of the artist placed between the rectangles.

Do not miss this exhibit. It is intriguing work done with the care and technique of the serious artist.