

Matthew Zivich: Professor of Art



Chuck and Irene's, 1985, graphite pencil on Arches paper. (drawing)

Prom, 1983, acrylic on linen. (painting).

Figure Study, 1971, cast plaster, oil paint, (sculpture)

Statement:

The artworks in the faculty show were chosen because they have not been shown at S.V.S.U. before. They are also much older pieces that still show some lingering influence of graduate school despite my graduation at least seven years before. But the pervasive interest in the representational style and the portrayal of the human figure are still obvious in these artworks. At the time of graduate school, all the instructors worked with the human figure and variations of representational styles.

The figure study sculpture was the last representational figure I made in sculpture and was the culmination of my experiments with hollow plaster casting. The idea was to use heavy aluminum wire inside the cast for strength along with plaster-soaked burlap that covered the hollow interior for additional strength. Aluminum was used for its light weight, and it doesn't rust.

The painting, "Prom" was an attempt at using purely invented figures in the manner of the Italian artists of the early 15th century. The use of the figure at that time was like the early ancient Greek sculptors before the High Classical Period where the techniques of artistic rendering prevailed over the later, close observations of anatomy and nature.

The artist's hand and sense of design were more apparent during these preliminary phases before the onset of the apex periods of realistic portrayals.

The graphite and eraser drawing in the faculty show was inspired by a photograph of a winter street scene in Montreal that appeared in a New Yorker magazine. It ended up being a well-known Midwestern city.