Sculptures, paintings, photographs and drawings are just a few of the things you'll see when you walk into the sixth annual "On Our Own Time" art exhibit, which showcases UA employees' artistic talents.

The exhibit is on display through Saturday at the Union Gallery on the third level of the Student Union Memorial Center. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The "On Our Own Time" exhibit was started by the Classified Staff Council in an effort to highlight employees' talents. It became a larger effort when the National Arts Program and the Appointed Professionals Advisory Council joined. Employees from any department, as well as their immediate family members, are invited to submit up to two pieces each for the show.

The National Arts Program, an organization that works to get employees in large corporations to show their artistic work, will provide certificates to all participants in the UA exhibit, as well as cash prizes to winners totaling $2,400.

Cesar Bustamante, senior website designer and developer for the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine [1], submitted two pieces of art done with black pen and Sharpie permanent marker. He has been sketching since he was young and is a first-time participant in the "On Our Own Time" art exhibit this year.

"I do think it's incredibly generous of the University to open up its gallery to its employees," Bustamante said. "I'm excited to see what people have made and I hope I'm not the only one getting a little joy out of seeing your own work in an actual art gallery."

The pieces range from drawings with colored pencils to paintings to photography to sculptures to jewelry. Artists of all skill levels were able to submit their work.

Some participants submitted pieces that were done as a hobby, and some submitted pieces that held meaning. For example, Martha Sesteaga, financial and data analyst for the College of Optical Sciences [2], made a wooden carved skull, hand-painted with acrylics in honor of her late great-grandmother.

Ginamarie Nieves, program coordinator for Maricopa County Cooperative Extension [3], decided to participate in the exhibit to help further her art career. She has been interested in art her whole life, with encouragement from her mother and, is currently pursuing a degree in painting at the UA. She submitted a wire doll sculpture titled "La Muerte" and an acrylic painting titled "South Rim Sunset" to this year's exhibit.
"I think it is important for the UA to provide these kinds of opportunities to employees because it gives an opportunity to show their other talents," Rosenfeld says. "Art is enriching to all, and some may not have any other opportunities to show their art. It also gives encouragement for the employee's children to see that their art is important too."

The exhibit will end Saturday with a reception from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Union Gallery to honor the artists and their families.

For more information, contact Claudia Arias, senior program coordinator for the College of Engineering and program coordinator for "On Our Own Time," at ariasc@email.arizona.edu.

Source URL: https://uaatwork.arizona.edu/lqp/employees-show-artistic-talent-our-own-time-exhibit

Links:
[3] https://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa
[5] mailto:ariasc@email.arizona.edu