



We draws visitors' attention to the importance of unity

Written by Brittany Tepper, Daily Vidette Reporter
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Artists Kendell Carter and Darren Hostetter bring thought provoking art to ISU's University Galleries. "We," an exhibition by Carter with Darren Hostetter, opened this past Saturday at University Galleries, and runs until Dec. 16.

The exhibit features relevant issues such as race, gender and consumer culture while emphasizing the importance of unity and "we-ness."

Before walking into the main gallery, viewers are immersed into Carter's art. "Feel Me," an installation of du-rags, fills the gallery from floor to ceiling. Viewers push their way through hundreds of colorful du-rags to get to the next room.

Once inside the main gallery, viewers stand parallel to a huge boxing ring. The ring's floor is lined with cotton and two large drawn pictures of Carter and Hostetter stands framed. The piece entitled, "That Fight Ain't Real! They're Friends in Real Life ..." shows both Carter and Hostetter with their arms crossed refusing to fight. Carter and Hostetter drew inspiration for the ring's unique look by looking at wrestling rings and southern architecture.

The walls of the gallery are filled with drawings backed by cotton, and a series of weaving latex art on canvas, entitled "WEavings." Each drawing represents a figure that has an influence over either artist. One is completely dedicated to rapper Jay-Z. Along with a strong use of cotton, hip-hop also seemed to inspire much of the artwork featured.

The title piece, "We," is a wall covered in bronze plated shoes. The shoes are accompanied with dog tags.



When asked who the shoes belong to Hostetter said, "One of the pairs belongs to Carter's father. Monique has a pair, it's a way to join with him." "We" is just one of Carter's plated shoe pieces. Carter has also created other bronze and gold plated shoes for several years.

Monique Meloche is a gallery owner and supporter of Kendell and Hostetter's art. She explains that "We" is an exhibit about bringing people together.

"You look at 'We' and it's all about a shared endeavor. You can see this through 'WEaving,'" Meloche said.

Andrew S. Avitt/Daily Vidette Photographer: Kendell Carter and Darren Hostetter's art exhibit "We," which opened Saturday, blends hip-hop culture, modernism and architecture to form thought-provoking art.

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Both Meloche and Hostetter attended the opening reception on Saturday.

This is the first time that Kendell and Hostetter's work is being featured in a multi room site specific location.

Tessa Gilett, a senior arts technology major, helped set up the exhibit. The exhibit came by truck from the west coast.

"The initial setup was simply amazing. It took about a week or so, and all the guards helped put everything together. The end result was simply great," Gilett said.

Gilett also attended the artist lecture earlier in the week. The artists talked about each piece more in depth and their inspiration.

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