

February First Friday shows off Quintana exhibit, books by Smith twins

Drayton Willey

Staff Writer

Last Friday, Emporians were again treated to local artists displaying their work downtown at the 42nd Emporia First Friday Art Walk.

The first Friday of every month has Emporia's downtown businesses decorated with painters, crocheters, writers, and other artists of all varieties, giving Emporians the opportunity to interact with their local artists.

This month, Jeff Quintana's exhibit "Love the Process" was the art collection featured

at Trox Gallery and Gifts. Quintana describes his art as a "mixture of urban graffiti and abstract." His art combines pronounced colors and prominent, blocked letters with many bathetic and blended backgrounds.

First Friday Art Walks also include artists who work in 3D and literary mediums. Local high school students and twins Harley and Hunter Smith were featured at the Axe Shedd with Hunter's trilogy of fantasy books "Sky Warriors," a young adult sword and sorcery series surrounding wondrous

artifacts, dragons, and magic. Harley was the illustrator for the series.

"It started as something I was doing in my spare time. I really liked writing," Hunter said, calling back to why he started writing his books in the first place.

Getting local exposure at First Friday wasn't too hard either.

"I was approached by (First Friday) and asked if I wanted to participate and I figured it was a good way to show my writing," Hunter said.



PHOTO BY ADIA WITHERSPOON | **The Bulletin**

Emporia State counselor Anja Ford stands at her First Friday booth on Feb. 2.

New "Barbie and Feminism" course introduced for spring semester

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Emporia State started the spring semester with an avant-garde class offered to students: "Barbie and Feminism." Director of Ethnic and Gender studies Mallory Bishop and Senior Diversity Officer and Assistant Dean of the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies Nyk Robertson co-teach the class. The class encompasses gender theory, queer theory, capitalism, race, feminism, and "camp."

"('Camp' is) a way of expression that is exaggerated. It's often what they call self-acknowledging," Bishop said. "So it's something that's so tacky, so ugly, so over the

top that it kind of becomes cool again. And even though it wasn't originally associated with the LGBTQ+ community or queer culture, it quickly became part of queer culture. So "camp" is old. It's something that is several decades as kind of an idea."

Bishop says that the inspiration for the class came after watching the film "Barbie." She explains that together she and Robertson brainstormed ways to explain multiple theories that are also discussed in "Barbie."

"...We started thinking about some other topics like gender theory. Thinking about queer theory because there are several characters in the movie that are kind of portrayed as being

part of the queer community or could be seen as being part of the queer community," she said.

The class also incorporates a discussion around race

"Barbie does have some different representation. The movie does feature actors or Barbies of different races, but there's still a lot of whiteness," Bishop said. "And so that's something that we could critique about Barbie. There weren't any Black or Latina Barbies introduced until 1980. So Barbie was introduced in 1959, but it took that many decades for there to be a Black Barbie."

Other components of the class are marketing and capitalism which include Barbie's



GRAPHIC BY RACHEL RODENMAYER

brand, components of the Barbie organization and Mattel as a business. These discussions contribute to a comprehension of consumerism and the doll's symbolic value as the first

fashion doll.

"We're mainly using the movie as a way to talk about these larger ideas," she said.