

Husband, wife get interactive with art show

By **TIM BROUK**

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Two giant tubs of water now sit in the Patti and Rusty Rueff Gallery at Purdue University.

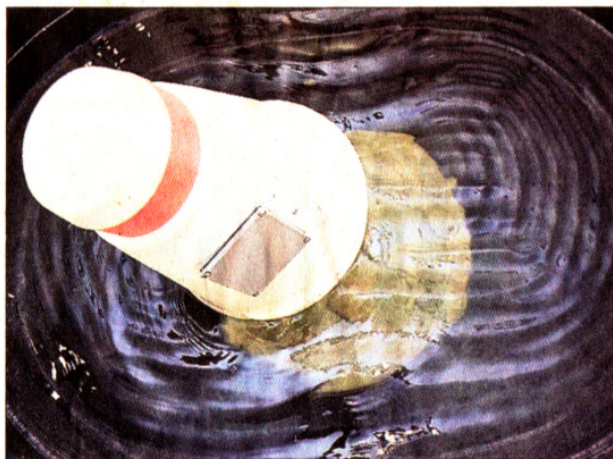
It's not a part of a performance art piece involving synchronized bathing and there's no leak in the roof.

The tubs hold electric buoys that react to splashes and vibrations in the water with sounds as part of the interactive art piece *Waves* by Shannon McMullen and Fabian Winkler, a Purdue visiting scholar and an assistant professor, respectively.

"We want this to be interactive and get the public involved," McMullen said.

Waves is a part of the exhibit "Kodak Moments" hanging Monday through Thursday at the Rueff Gallery inside Pao Hall for the Visual and Performing Arts. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Kodak Moments" actually starts outside of Pao Hall with two inflatable pieces designed by Winkler and McMullen and manufactured by Inflatable Images out of Cleveland. The pieces are on the southeast and southwest yards of the building. Inflatable Images produced the inflatable costume for the Purdue mascot Rowdy, McMullen



Photos by Andrew Hancock/Journal & Courier

A sound buoy floating in a tub of water is called *Waves*, part of the 'Kodak Moments' exhibit. (Right) Shannon McMullen is pictured with the slide projectors for her exhibit, *Kodak Moments Ruhr*, at the Patti and Rusty Rueff Gallery at Purdue University in West Lafayette. The exhibit will also include collaborative projects with her husband Fabian Winkler.

said.

Blam! and *Grrr!* came from a group exhibit in Pittsburgh that worked with the theme "Roars." The husband and wife art team were inspired by comic strip imagery and word bubbles for their abstract designs. *Blam!* has a Gramophone shape to it.

Viewers are encouraged to walk through and underneath the inflatables where their voices will seem distorted

and music will be pumped through the large works that measure 20 feet tall.

Kodak Moments Ruhr is a dual slide projection with McMullen's photography from a 2002 trip to the Ruhr region of Germany. A steel and coal hot spot in the 1940s and '50s, the industrial area was dead a few decades later but was then revitalized as a place of tourism and leisure in the 21st century. Husks



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of towers and factories have been revamped into clubs and resorts without losing the integrity of the original architecture.

McMullen said she shot a huge gasometer structure that held gas from coal and used for energy in the 1950s

that is now a three-story art gallery. Her black and white and color digital photographs are combined with found images from 1950s Germany like stills from an old industrial film from 50 years ago.

Winkler said the purpose of *Ruhr* is to show that the renovation of these old, hulking structures could be made into something new and creative.

"Why is it in this region they keep the architecture but not in regions in the U.S.

like the Rust Belt?" Winkler posed. "They're not being used in a creative way. They're just being bulldozed and erased. ... We wanted to start a dialogue using this interesting visual language."

As the Rueff Gallery's fourth year begins, coordinator Lindi Kistler said more exhibits are coming her way. And many are interactive like "Kodak Moments." But they're not as wet.

"This is our first exhibit with water in it," Kistler said.