Student art showcases interactive light

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Don't blink or you might miss the first exhibition from Purdue's electronic and time-based art program.

"Blink!" which will be displayed from 7 to 10 tonight at 514 Main St. in Lafayette, is a free exhibit that features artwork from graduate students. The artwork was developed in the course A&D 590B, "Interactive Light," taught by Fabian Winkler, assistant professor of visual and performing arts. He came up with the idea for the exhibition.

Winkler proposed that the students take what they had learned in a new medium to construct an interactive exhibition. Students have been working hard throughout the semester on their projects in order to present them at the show.

The show features four projects, all completed by graduate students. The projects include the investigation of light in different fields such as design, architecture, fine art, performance, popular culture and gaming.

Andrea Dailey, a graduate student in photography, is involved with the show. Her light sculpture, "Kaboom," was based on the ideas of anticipation and excitement.

"Hopefully, the exhibition will show new and exciting ways that art installation uses light as a medium," said Dailey.

There were various donations by businesses that helped contribute to the exhibition. Dailey thinks the show offers the community collaboration between Purdue and Lafayette. "Blink!" provides community members the opportunity to admire and view collectively the interactive light projects.

Dailey likes that the show encourages viewers to interact and participate and that this helps appeal to more audiences.

"Each project incorporates light in an innovating way. Viewers will participate in the success of each project by interacting with light," she said.

Ingrid Shults, a graduate student, who is also involved with the exhibition, said what is so interesting about this exhibition is how the role of the viewer is changed from passive to active.

"The interactivity of all four works in the show reevaluates the role of the viewer and the dynamics
of the art and gallery space," said Shults.

This exhibition has motivated students like Shults and Dailey and they are proud to show their work to the community.

"As an artist, it has pushed my skills to work in such a different media. Using elements like electricity and programming, something I could not see while constructing, demanded a lot of me. I think it is exciting to see all four works come together using different aesthetics, concepts and processes," said Shults.

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