Student uses music for art exhibit

BY ETHAN MERRICK Staff Reporter

Two metallic luminescent sculptures – one agon in deep golden yellow while the other, a bright mint green – act as giant headphones immersing the entire space in an ambient collection of music and sound.

The exhibition on display in the West Gallery of Pao Hall is the product of Jordan Cleland, graduate student in Electronic Time-Based Art. Cleland’s work primarily focuses on sound, but in all of his work there is a visual element.

Cleland explains the conception of his exhibition.

“The entire installation is based on this CD album,” Cleland said. “It’s a summary of my sonic exploits – pieces that I have recorded over the years, but I wouldn’t exactly call the album exclusively music or sound.”

Generally, the focus of an exhibit is a collection of visual pieces. However, with Cleland’s exhibit sound is the focus.

“The exhibit is a dedicated space for listening,” Cleland said. “The idea is that the person isn’t walking around with headphones on. Instead the person is immersed, absorbing sound, instead of sound being a distraction.”

Cleland constructed the exhibit in such a manner that, depending on where an individual stands, they will experience a different album than someone else.

Liz Eriewine, the Ruff Gallery coordinator, explains the theme of the exhibition.

“Viewers are welcomed into a public, yet private space for a public, yet private experience of listening to a stereo track divided into two sides,” Eriewine said. “The metallic listening ‘tens’ serve as each side of a headphone for an immersive experience.”

Eriewine finds that Cleland’s exhibit is reflective of his character.

“I think that his exhibition is an artistic expression of a lot of his personality traits,” Eriewine said. “It is very cognitive, very determined, thoughtful, very specific. At the same time, it is understated, simple, accessible.”