

READING EAGLE

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SPOTLIGHT

Albright professor's digital art on exhibit in Massachusetts

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The work of Matthew Garrison, associate professor of digital media at Albright College, will be featured as part of "Collage Logic," a group show at the University of Massachusetts Hampden Gallery, through Oct. 18.

"Collage Logic," curated by Jackie Shatz, is an exhibition featuring the work of Garrison and 12 other contemporary artists, who take a hybrid approach in emerging media, painting and sculpture.

Garrison asserts through his two digital sculptures in the exhibit the contextualizing of technology within history and art. His "In the Rain" (2010, 9 minutes) employs the language of cinema and dance through the re-creation of Gene Kelly's iconic performance in "Singin' in the Rain." Garrison presents himself in the piece as a dancing silhouette on a flat-screen television mounted behind a transparent collage.

The collage consists of hundreds of drop forms attached

to a sheet of paper treated with plastic, making it transparent. His slapstick attempt at dancing with an umbrella affectionately connects the values and ideologies of 1952, the film's release year, to contemporary aesthetics and attitudes.

Garrison's other piece, titled "Face to Face," conveys the connective and organizational possibilities of the Internet, and functions as a unique self-portrait composed of those Garrison cares about.

Inside a blue screen, tiny pictures of Garrison's Facebook friends are lined on top of each other, and a light focuses on one picture at a time along with a Facebook status from the highlighted person. The lines are random, declarative bits of dialogue about vacation plans, family visits and wishing the world a good night. In the context of Garrison's work, the combined statuses begin to describe the attitudes and values of our time and serve as a reminder of how powerful the Internet can be for creating and main-

taining relationships.

Garrison of Downingtown, Chester County, has been at Albright College since 2001. He received a master of fine arts degree in sculpture from Hunter College, City University of New York. His 2012 exhibitions have included "Be Right Back," a solo show, at Thomas Hunter Project Space, Hunter College, and "Based on a True Story," a three-person traveling show, at Marshall Arts, Memphis, Tenn., and the Downtown Gallery, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"In the Rain" and "Face to Face" (formerly called "Friends") can be seen with other examples of Garrison's work at www.garrisonarts.com/.

Hampden Gallery is located in Hampden Dining Commons, 131 Southwest Circle, Amherst, Mass. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m.

For more information about the exhibit, call the gallery at 413-545-0680 or go to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/Article/CollageLogic>.