



Viridiana Villa / Tejano Tribune

Christine Miles shows some of the earth worm beds made by the art students for the community gardens.

Art club offers culture to members

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For those interested in art as a hobby, a lifestyle or merely for appreciation, the Art Student Society provides a variety of activities to enrich both its members and the community with art.

Active since 1999, the club's main activities include traveling to art exhibits, visiting artist programs, and contributing to the community.

Some events involving the club are the Student Art Exhibition and the Empty Bowls El Paso charity event.

The Student Art Exhibition is a chance for anyone who applies to get his or her work displayed at the Administrative Services Center on Viscount.

Empty Bowls El Paso is a charity dinner to raise funds for the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank. Handmade ceramic bowls are used as the actual tableware at the dinner to serve different soups made by the culinary arts students.

Guests keep the bowl, the piece of pottery made by fine arts students, as part of admission to the dinner.

The club hosts workshops where these ceramic bowls are made.

About 300 bowls were made for the last event and the best ones were put on auction.

More workshops hosted by the club include the making of pottery, ceramic blocks, and earth worm beds for the VV campus community gardens in the Building A courtyard.

"An art society should be dedicated to advancing the tradition of artistic excellence," said Christine Miles, president of the club.

"It should seek to enrich the cultural life of the community, and it should enrich the experience and learning of members."

As part of the artistic enrichment, the club organizes trips to workshops and art studios to practice and learn diverse art disciplines.

Recent trips included visits to studios specialized in making ceramics, a sculpture workshop in San Antonio and a wax painting workshop in Santa Fe.

Membership is open to all students, no matter their majors.

"We don't necessarily need anybody to be an art student," Miles said. "That's the biggest thing. We want people to have a different experience. It sort of makes them grow into a higher level of pleasure with art."

The club meetings are twice a week, Wednesdays and Thursdays, early in the morning.

Members discuss overall performance from recent events, upcoming events and potential ways to raise money.

Noah Georges, club treasurer, said he gained a lot of experience during his time as a member.

"From being in this club," Georges said, "I expanded my social network."

"I came out of my shell because I used to be very introverted. One of the biggest things I picked up is a greater appreciation for art and the arts because I got the chance to see it and try it."

Georges said students hesitating to join the club because of perceived lack of artistic skill or experience should drop their fear and join.

"You don't have to come to all the meetings, but if you do, you get to go to the trips with us."

As an additional benefit, some art professors give extra credit for those involved with the club.

For updates about the club, Miles encouraged everyone to join their facebook page at facebook.com/StudentArtSociety.