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Monday, July 14, 2014

Hyattsville gallery exhibit allows viewers to explore landscape in new ways

Work by two Prince George's County artists on display until July 26

By Jamie Anfenson-Comeau Staff Writer

This story was corrected at 9:56 a.m. July 15, 2014. An explanation is at the bottom of the story.

The work of two Prince George's County artists on display at the artdc Gallery in Hyattsville present viewers with a new way of looking at landscapes through art.

Robert Long of Hyattsville and Laurence Chandler of Lanham have pieces appearing in artdc Gallery's "Welcome to Wonderland: Rethinking Landscape," an exhibit featuring abstract ideas about landscape and place.

"We were looking for not only abstract landscape, but thinking about landscape in a different way," said gallery curator Kayleigh Bryant-Greenwell. "So the works that were selected were those that really strongly speak to that thought process."

One of Long's pieces is entitled, "38.9716666666667, -76.9649833333333 (section 1)" — named after the longitude and latitude coordinates for the site on a tributary of the Anacostia River where materials used in the piece were derived, and which the piece represents.

The work is a three-dimensional sculpture incorporating acrylic boxes, river silt, water, lights, a video still, stone and glass. The base of the work is soapstone quartz, and the piece incorporates river silt from the site.

"If you Google that title, those long sets of digits, it will show you on Google Maps the exact location where those materials came from," Bryant-Greenwell said, adding that the piece received an honorable mention in the juried exhibition because it allows the viewer to think about and connect with

"It's really about thought process, and that's kind of what we were hoping to get out of this show," Bryant-Greenwell said.

Long said that viewers can then explore the actual landscape

the landscape on their own.



Tom Fedor/The Gazette

Hyattsville artist Robert Long's works are on display at the artdc Gallery in Hyattsville.





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represented by the art, gaining additional understanding of the space.

"The goal is to help the viewer gain another understanding of the space and build on how we understand space at another level," Long said.

Chandler's pieces use acrylic paint on canvas to create a bright, abstract representation of horizons and a cityscape.

"I use acrylic, but I use different layers. I allow it to dry and then I come back to it. Most of my paintings have three or four different layers, so the viewer's eyes can actually move through it," Chandler said.

Chandler said he uses various nontraditional tools to create some of the effects in his work.

"I've used spatulas, the kind you use for cooking, forks, and all types of utensils, to give the image a certain shape, a certain tension," Chandler said.

Bryant-Greenwell said Chandler's work takes the familiar and makes it into something mysterious.

"The viewer's imagination plays a key part. Different people see and feel different things, and that speaks to the exhibit's questions about how we perceive place.

Landscape isn't so cut and dry in this exhibit, and Chandler's works add to that diversity of perspectives,"

Bryant-Greenwell said.

The exhibit will be on display at artdc Gallery, located at 5710 Baltimore Road in the Lustine Center, until July 26. Viewings are by appointment only.

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This story initially mispelled the first name of one of the artists.

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