

HCC's Taber Art Gallery presents exhibit by Gilbert Johnquest



Artist Gilbert Johnquest exhibit in HCC's Taber Art Gallery is "both an organic and pre-planned creative exercise," says his sister, gallery director Amy Johnquest.

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College (HCC) presents mixed media works in a vibrant and soulful installation by artist Gilbert Johnquest called "CA. Landscapes: Thingamajigs, Gizmos, Whatchamacallits."

The exhibit opened Sept. 3 and will run through Thursday, Oct. 3.

A graduate of Milwaukee College of Art and Design, who describes himself as an "odd jobber," Johnquest lived and worked in California since 1979. In his art, he works with a variety of materials and found objects. For this exhibition, he has created a site-specific installation utilizing both finished paintings from his California studio as well as found objects procured from his travels that he assembled in the gallery.

"I'm super excited to have talked my utterly talented brother into exhibition," said Taber Gallery director Amy

Johnquest. "He is one of my all-time favorite artists – brother or not – and we are lucky to have his work here."

"He came directly from Los Angeles," she said, "driving a van filled with his art and along the way he gathered found objects from each state he passed through. The install is both an organic and pre-planned creative exercise."

For his artist's statement, Gilbert Johnquest wrote a poem:

*Landscape,
globalization,
social issues,
within as without.
voids and boarders are walked,
a study of horizons,
foregrounds and in-betweens.
I love you*

The Taber Art Gallery at HCC

is open Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions. It is free and open to the public and located through the HCC Campus Library lobby on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, 303 Homestead Avenue. For more information, people may contact Amy Johnquest, director of the Taber Art Gallery, at 413-552-2614.

Holyoke Community College is the Commonwealth's oldest community college, serving more than 11,500 students annually in credit and noncredit programs and courses. The college holds more than 50 articulation agreements with 27 colleges and universities. Recognized for its honors program, online learning curriculum, learning communities, and service to students, HCC also offers business development opportunities through the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. People may visit www.hcc.edu.