



Entertainment

REVIEWS: 'Five Feet Apart,' 'Wonder Park,' **D2**

PUZZLES PAGE: Crosswords, Jumble, Bridge, **D3**

WORLD OF WONDER: Daniel Boone, **D6**

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HOLYOKE

HCC art show explores fantasy, escapism

Fantasy and escapism are the themes of an exhibit at HCC's Taber Art Gallery by Northampton multimedia artist Anya Klepacki.

Klepacki's show of tapestries, drawings, costumes, mobiles, miniature landscapes and tents filled with creations that visitors are invited to touch is called "If the Future of this World Can't Be Depended On, I'll Make My Own: Fantasy Spaces in the 21st Century." It runs through Thursday. Klepacki will give a gallery talk on the closing night, Thursday, from 5-6 p.m.

"This is about engaging with the question of fantasy and escapism in a particular time, the 21st century, when we're facing unprecedented challenges and the kind of impending chaos that a lot of people my age are aware of, but don't know what to do about," Klepacki said.

This is the first solo show for the 28-year-old artist, who grew up in Northamp-

ton, attended the Williston-Northampton School in Easthampton, and holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Tufts University and a bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Beyond the art on display in the gallery, Klepacki invites people to explore the online research component (fantasy-spaces.info) of her work that she describes as a micro encyclopedia of categories related to the themes of the show, from Afrofuturism, science fiction and utopias, to

virtual reality, space colonization, LARPing (live action role playing), meditation and transformative festivals like Burning Man.

The Taber Art Gallery at HCC is open Monday through Thursday from 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 Ave.

For more information, contact Amy Johnquest, director of the Taber Art Gallery, at 413-552-2614.



Artist Anya Klepacki shows off some of her work at HCC's Taber Art Gallery.