

Come Discover *What's Inside?* at the DCC Art Gallery



Ali LaRock



Gretchen Bederman



What's Inside? Is on display now at the Dawson Community College Art Gallery 126 through Friday, February 27th. The exhibition showcases two good friends, Ali LaRock and Gretchen Bederman. These two accomplished artists make for an interesting juxtaposition of images. Ali's paintings are filled with childlike scribbles of emotion and question while Gretchen's are superficial with only a subtle intimation of what might be going on behind the image.

"For me," says Ali "creating art is a continuous learning process about myself, those around me, & the complexity of this world. Combining humor & playfulness with the intense issues that are involved in trying to understand myself & others is a natural response to the way I see the world--a place filled with so many wonderful feelings & possibilities, & yet a very frustrating place full of all sorts of struggles".

Ali LaRock is an artist living & working in Bismarck, North Dakota. Ali works in the areas of painting, drawing, & mixed media. Ali grew up in New Town, North Dakota. She received her B.F.A. in painting from Minnesota State University, Moorhead in 1998.

Besides creating & exhibiting her art Ali enjoys teaching art to young people through various artist-in-residence opportunities through organizations such as the North Dakota Council on the Arts, Theo Art School, Sleepy Hollow Summer Theatre, & the International Music Camp.

During the school year, Ali travels to different schools throughout North Dakota as a visiting artist. Any school or organization can contact Ali and bring her in for a week or more to teach a variety of art projects with their students. When she is not traveling during the school year Ali works on her own art, gives private lessons, creative art parties, & also offers after school classes in Bismarck.

In contrast to Ali, **Gretchen Bederman**, has been an accomplished artist for over 20 years.

In her words, "This exhibit of my artwork is different from the usual images people have come expect from me. You may have seen my art work on exhibit in 2008 at the DCC art gallery and at the DCAU Gallery downtown.

Every once in a while I like to go off on a tangent, and this series exploring the face of youth is just such an adventure. What you will see is phase one of this new series. Twenty-five images rooted in time and place, direct, small and simple, taken from photos of familiar faces, not my minds eye -where I usually go.

Young people, all around me, on the day-to-day, a curious and intriguing group. My surroundings at DCC have taken hold and it's influencing my imagery. Being a full time teacher takes up a lot of time, and I no longer have the luxury of meditating in my studio for extended periods of time over big expanses of canvas. Instead, I've been enjoying making these quick sketches in between teaching, lesson plans, and grading."

Gretchen has been teaching art at Dawson Community College since the fall 2006. She received her BFA from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 1993 and her MFA from University of North Dakota in 1997. She is responsible for the creation of the DCC campus art gallery as well as many fun and creative workshops that cover many different types of media.